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The History of  
Thomas Atkinson  
and His Family



Published By  
His Descendants

Oxford, Indiana  
-1927-





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**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

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9.

Ray C. Atkinson

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## PREFACE

This history is published through the desire of the present generation of the Atkinson Family to preserve their recollections, letters, memoranda and biographies. It is the hope of the committee compiling it that it will prove to be a repository of pleasurable reading matter and of treasured information to future generations.

Their memory shall as a pattern or a measure be.

II Henry IV.



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Top Row—Left to Right

MRS. ELIZABETH MURPHY, MRS. ELINOR PIERCE, MRS. SUSANNAH LINDSEY, MRS. JANE WATTLES.

Bottom Row—Left to Right

CEPHAS ATKINSON, MRS. MARY WHINERY, JOSEPH ATKINSON, MRS. PHOEBE BALDWIN.







THOMAS and FRANCES HEAD ATKINSON



### **Our Branch of the Atkinson Family — 1650.**

John Atkinson was born in Scothford, England. He was married to Susanna Mills. They came to America in the year of 1699 and settled in or near Philadelphia. Three children were born to them.

William, son of John and Susanna, was born in year of 1689.

Mary, twin sister of William, 1689.

John, 2nd, son of John and Susanna, was born August 20, 1695. He was married to Mary Smith, of Wrightstown, Pa., in the year of 1717.

John 3rd, son of John 2nd, and Mary, was born 1718. He was married to Phoebe Stokes.

James, son of John 3rd and Phoebe.

Rose, daughter of James, was married to Judge Wilson. of Lebanon, Ohio.

Two sons of James, names unknown.

William, son of John and Mary, was born 1721.

Thomas, son of John 2nd and Mary, was born 1722, and died in Pennsylvania.

Cephas, son of Thomas.

Joseph, died 1888. Lived at Upland, Indiana.

David, son of Thomas.

Charles, son of Thomas.

John, son of Thomas.

Christopher, son of John 2nd and Mary, was born 1723.

Mary, daughter of John 2nd and Mary, was born 1725.

Ezekiel, son of John 2nd and Mary, was born 1728.

Elizabeth, daughter of John 2nd and Mary, was born 1732.

Cephas, son of John 2nd and Mary, was born between the years of 1728 and 1732. He was married to Hannah Naylor, of Buck Creek, Pa., in the year of 1752. They then moved to Northumberland County, Pa.

William, son of Cephas and Hannah.

Mary, daughter of Cephas and Hannah.



Joseph, son of Cephas and Hannah, was born in the year of 1763 or 1764. He was married to Susanna Mills in York County, Pa., in the year of 1778. They moved to Clinton County, Ohio, in the year of 1810. He died in 1830 or 1831.

Phoebe, daughter of Joseph and Susanna, was born 1788. Was married to John Willis. Had children, names unknown.

Cephas, son of Joseph and Susanna, was born 1790 and died 186-. Married Abigil Oren.

Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Susanna, was born in 1793. Married James Brooks.

Robert, son of Joseph and Susanna, was born 1795. No children.

Margaret, daughter of Joseph and Susanna, was born in 1797. Was married to James Oren.

John, son of Joseph and Susanna, born 1800, died 1825.

William, son of Joseph and Susanna, born 1802, died 1822.

Hannah and Susannah, twins, born and died 1805.

Thomas, son of Joseph and Susanna, was born 1806 and died 1892. He was married to Frances Head in 1825.

Isaac, son of Joseph and Susanna, was born in year of 1809. He settled in Iowa where he died.

#### **Mills Family**

Robert Mills, married Susannah.

James, son of Robert and Susannah.

John, son of Robert and Susannah.

Mary, daughter of Robert and Susannah.

Susannah, born October 28, 1764 and was married to Joseph Atkinson.

#### **Another Branch of the Atkinson Family.**

I have an idea that the eldest Stephan and his brothers were nephews of our English John, who came over to America in 1699. No authority for this however. (Phoebe Baldwin).

Stephan, born 1713, came to America with two brothers from England, 1720, and died 1758.

Stephan Jr., had two children.

Matthew.

Thomas, lived at Carrolton, Ohio, died 1885.



## Children of Thomas Atkinson.

Isaac.  
Thomas, William, twins.  
Peter.  
Elizabeth.  
Jacob.  
Mary Ann.  
Margaret.  
Daniel, of Jay Co.  
Matthew.  
Jackson.

## Children of Jackson Atkinson.

Euphennia.  
Matthias.  
Charles.  
Margaret.  
Fred T.  
Daniel.  
Elizabeth.  
Henry, son of Thomas Atkinson.  
Tabitha Ann, daughter of Thomas Atkinson.  
Joseph, son of Stephan.  
Isaac, son of Thomas Atkinson, of Carrollton, Ohio, died

1874.

Robert, son of Isaac.  
Other children.  
Margaret, daughter of Thomas Atkinson.





## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS ATKINSON

It was the custom and the pleasure of the late Thomas Atkinson to relate to the younger persons who cared to hear, incidents of his youth and of his life work. At one time in reply to questions concerning his various experience, he made answer to the questioner, "If thee will be my amanuensis, I will relate to thee the chief events of my career, to the best of my recollection, and when my earth life is ended thee may finish the story for me and have it published. I should like all my grandchildren to know as intimately as thee does what manner of man I am."

In compliance with this request and permission, the following narrative was written.

"I was born in York county, Pennsylvania, on the seventeenth day of August 1806. My parents, Joseph and Susannah (Mills) Atkinson, were of Quaker lineage, and I was the tenth of eleven children, five brothers and six sisters.

I have but little recollection of the few years of my life spent in my native state, as my father with his family moved to Ohio in the spring before my fifth birthday. This was before the days of turnpikes, and the entire journey of nearly five-hundred miles by the circuitous route then traveled was made in a wagon drawn by three horses over mountains and rivers. It required over a month to reach our destination, Wilmington, Clinton County, Ohio. My father rented a small farm, the first year. His means were scanty and he and his sons had to begin work at once to earn their bread. At that time there was but one woolen mill in the state and as its products were far beyond the reach of our slender purse, we boys were clothed for a long while in buck skin. Many a morning after a day's work in rain or snow I found my trousers so wrinkled and shrunken in drying as to require much beating and rubbing to make them cover and bend with my knees.

At the beginning of his second year in Ohio, my father bought 175 acres of Military land, the title to which afterwards



proved spurious. A house was built on the new farm and other improvements begun and the next thirteen years of my life were spent in such hard work as is unknown to youth in these days of labor saving machinery, and such as only a healthy rugged boy as I was could endure. There was little intermission or diversion, and my only educational advantages were such as could be derived from a few days each winter at a primitive school building with log walls, puncheon seats and floor, stick and clay chimney, and the greased paper window-panes.

The first money I ever had for myself I earned when eighteen years old by driving cattle from the Miami valley to Philadelphia. I was to receive \$7.50 per month for the time occupied in going and returning. When I settled with my employer he allowed half a drover's month to return home, and I walked the five hundred miles for \$3.50. I was married the next summer and paid for my wedding shoes by threshing in one day with a flail, twenty-eight bushels of rye, binding the straw of each six sheaves into a bundle, and the next day cleaning the grain, not with a windmill, but by sifting it from a height through a riddle while two assistants stood by and blew out the chaff by fanning with a linen sheet, for we raised flax in those days and all articles of clothing such as are now made of cotton, were then made of linen, manufactured at home without machinery. My wedding garments were cut from a web of fine "ten hundred warp" made of flax of my own raising, my mother's spinning and my father's weaving.

Flax was spun on "little wheels" and girls who "worked out" received seventy-five cents a week and were expected to spin twelve cuts a day.

My marriage took place on the fifth of August, 1825. My wife was Frances Head. She was born in Highland county, Ohio, May 13th, 1810. Her parents, Benjamin and Beulah (Brackney) Head, were of Quaker origin, but not members of the society of Friends. Her early life, like my own, had inured her to poverty and hardships, so we were prepared by experience to face the misfortune which met us in the beginning of our wedded life. The title of my father's farm was at last called into question, and it, with all its improvements, the accumulations of his own and his sons labor for years, were swept



away, and my father after some delay trying to legalize his claim, ended his days as a tenant on the farm.

After this loss, I went into debt for one hundred acres of wild land at \$2.50 an acre. This farm was our home for several years, when after improving and paying for it we sold, and purchased four hundred acres in Green county. This farm also, we improved and for many years made it our home. Here ten of our children were born. While living here I herded large herds of cattle on the prairies of Benton county, Indiana, and drove them to the Philadelphia market. In those days checks, bills of exchange, etc., were not to be procured as now, and the drover who sold his stock in an eastern market must carry the proceeds of his sale home in cash on his person. This I did many times, yet so firmly convinced of the wrong of taking human life in even so-called self defense, that I never carried a weapon of any kind, and never but once met with any molestation. On one of my return journeys, I was forced by a storm to seek shelter at a somewhat disreputable inn called The Drover's Tavern, which stood beside, or almost over a stream called Bloody Run, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. I hoped to escape recognition, but the landlord knew me and made inquiries concerning the success of my trip. After retiring the loneliness of the night and the sound of the rushing waters beneath the window kept me awake for some time and about midnight I was somewhat startled at the hearing of someone enter my room. I asked what was wanted, and the intruder stole quietly away without answering. Believing that mischief was intended, I rose, dressed, and took my position by the wall near the door. I was not surprised to hear my visitor return in an hour or so, and waiting till he had passed me on his way towards the bed, I sprang from the room, giving the alarm as I did so, and ran down the stairs, at the foot of which I met the landlord with a lantern. My midnight visitor followed me very closely. I made known to my host the events of the night and appealed for his protection which was promised me, while a rough reproof was given to the culprit who affected to be drunk and to have entered my room through mistake. I returned to my bed for the rest of the night, and continued my journey next day with the conviction that it was the design of



the man to rob me and throw my body from the window into the stream below. Even this narrow escape, as I believe it to have been, was not enough to persuade me of the right to carry deadly weapons. I have been a member of the Universal Peace Union almost since its organization and am a firm advocate of Arbitration as the only means of settling differences between individuals or nations, and a hopeful believer that the time will yet come when the nations of the earth shall learn the arts of war no more. At the time when all men were required by law to join in military drill or to be fined for refusal, my conscience forbade me the practice and also denied the right of the fine for conscience sake, so my property was often sold by the constable for the purpose. My whole winter's stock of potatoes was once sold in this way and articles of furniture were often taken from the house.

I would like to say here that in all questions of moral principle or of religious conviction, my wife is fully in harmony with me, and her sympathy has always been a source of strength to me.

During my herding days, herders like myself, hunters, trappers, and Indians were the only population of the prairies. I often had my cattle stampeded by careless sportsmen, but the Indians, having been told that I was a disciple of William Penn, always took the greatest care to avoid scaring my herds, and invariably treated me with great respect. I cherish my recollections of the red men among the pleasant ones of my life.

While herding here in the summer of 1830, I traded a horse worth about fifty dollars to Luke Conner for his claim to about two thousand acres known as "the lost lands," in the south eastern part of what is now Oak Grove Township. At this time the land was unsurveyed and claims, or "Squatters' rights" were bought or sold without deeds or writing, the same as personal property. Soon afterwards, I sold this claim for one hundred dollars, but in 1848, the land having been surveyed by the government, I repurchased a portion of it for thirteen dollars per acre, and later, with my sons, bought nearly all the original two thousand with about twelve hundred additional in Warren and Benton counties. The greater portion of this land is still in possession of members of the family, eight of whom







own farms adjoining one another, each farm having upon it, natural timber and living water.

We continued the work of farming and stock-raising until the hard time season of 1857, when having been liberal in granting my name as security for friends, we found ourselves involved in debt to the extent that the holding of our home was endangered. But I possessed the confidence of my creditors and was granted the privilege of time in the payments,, which I did without the intervention of the law. The sale of our lands brought enough to cancel all debts and to secure to wife and each child about one thousand dollars. Our last land sale, that of the home farm was made to our youngest daughter, and the proceeds thereof secured us our present home in Oxford, where we are spending the last years of our lives very happily together, surrounded by the kindest of friends and the love of the eight surviving of our twelve children. Of these children, six sons and six daughters, all lived to manhood and womanhood, and all raised families except one, Isaac, who died unmarried at the age of twenty-seven years. We have now of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, over one hundred living descendents, a posterity of which we are very proud. In political belief, I have been a Republican ever since the organization of that party, before that time an Abolitionist. From my earliest youth I was educated in the belief of universal freedom. After the organization of the Abolition Society in 1833, I was privileged to hear James Boyle, a Presbyterian minister, of Cincinnati, and Charles Burleigh, a Congregationalist, of Philadelphia, speak upon the principles of the organization, and was among the first to adopt their views as to the best mode of freeing the African Slave by immediate, not gradual emancipation, and unconditional freedom, without compensation to the master, and we insisted that the powers of Congress should be immediately exercised over the District of Columbia and the Territories where it had full control. Our methods were strongly opposed by the Colonization Society and by popular feeling generally, but we held steadfast by our views and realized our satisfaction when they were recognized as the true principles by the Chief Executive of the Nation, and embodied in the Emancipation Proclamation.



I was one of the first commissioners of Benton county, and in 1864, was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature, representing Benton and White counties. I was taken ill shortly after going to the capital, and could not be in my seat until the session was half over, but was then able to join in the work which I consider one of the best of my life. At that time negroes were not allowed to testify in the courts of justice in this state. Thomas Ward, of the Senate introduced and secured the passage through that body, of a bill granting them this right, and I was chosen to engineer its passage through the lower house. There was strong opposition, but the bill was called up unexpectedly to them, by number, and in a night session, and was carried before our surprised opponents could carry out their plan of stampeding so as to leave us without a quorum. One among the leaders at the time lay in his seat in a state of intoxication too deep to allow him to direct either a stampede or a vote.

About the time of joining the Abolition Society, I became convinced of the injury done to the world by the use of intoxicants and took the pledge to abstain from all such liquors as a beverage. This pledge was never broken and I have been a teetotaler for sixty years. I have never used tobacco in any form. My wife, as was the custom then among women, learned to use a pipe in her youth, but becoming convinced that it was unnecessary, injurious, and bad as an example, discontinued its use when seventy years of age.

When I became an Abolitionist in principle, I joined also in the actual work of the society, and my absorption in this work led me to neglect to some degree the meetings of the Society of Friends, of which I was a member, and I was called before the meeting and charged with neglect and with mingling too freely with worldly people, and with repudiating the tenets of the Quaker church, being as it was expressed "out of the Unity." I acknowledged the truth of the first two charges but could not that of the last, believing that my work in aiding to secure the freedom of enslaved human beings was in the very spirit of that church. I had a trial before the overseers and received a formal dismissal from the church, a certificate of which dismissal I have yet in my possession. I have never



since been identified with any religious organization, but my wife and I adopted about forty years ago the ideas embraced in what is known as Modern Spiritualism. We have never in that time had occasion to doubt its truth, but have had many experiences each of which fixed our belief more firmly, some of which I would like to relate."—

(As the particular incidents referred to were never written out and hence cannot be given accurately, no attempt will be made to relate them. Sufficient that my grandfather's creed was the Eternal Fatherhood of God and the Universal Brotherhood of Man; his doctrine, overcome evil with good; and no purer, sweeter, truer, moral life was ever merged into the Infinite than that which his faith enabled him to live. "As a man thinketh in his own heart, so is he.")

He was seized with his last illness on the thirteenth day of December 1891.

Five days from that time, January 4, 1892, his wife, who had complained of but slight indisposition, died very suddenly. The shock to his family of this unlooked for bereavement was so great that it was deemed best not to make it known to him at once, but his life being prolonged beyond expectation, he was notified of the fact after three days. He received the word very quietly, saying it was a comfort to know they need not be separated; gave all directions for her funeral, requesting that if it might be, it should be delayed until they could be buried together. Shortly after, seeming to feel the end near, he directed the settlement of his earthly affairs and bade farewell to the members of his family who were present. He died at four o'clock on Friday, January 8th, 1892. The double funeral took place at the Presbyterian church in Oxford on the morning of the tenth.

Dictated to Leora Whinery Thomas



## **THE HISTORY OF THOMAS ATKINSON**

### **While Herding Cattle on the Plains of Indiana**

I, Phoebe W. Baldwin, am my father's oldest daughter and have some knowledge and information of his early life. He was born in York County, Pennsylvania, the 17th of August, 1806. With his parents, Joesph and Susannah Mills Atkinson, he moved to Clinton County, Ohio. They were "Friends" descendants of the Atkinson and Mills who came from England in an early day. They were of the William Penn and George Fox type of "Friends" that held all the human family in a bond of brotherhood.

There were ten children born to Joseph and Susannah Mills Atkinson—Cephas, Robert, John, William, Thomas, my father, and Isaac, the daughters were Phebe, Margaret and Elizabeth. My grandfather settled in Clinton County, Ohio, on a farm. My father, Thomas, worked on the farm with his father and brothers. The country was new and they had many hardships to encounter, but they were determined healthy men that made their way through difficulties such as they had to meet.

When my father, Thomas, herded cattle on the prairie, it was an open plain from Oak Grove on the south to Iroquois timber, Dentons and Denners Groves on the North. There was one lone cotton wood tree which stood north of where Fowler now stands. This tree was a land mark and served as a guide and compass. His range over the plain was from Pine Village to the lake region. Beaver Lake was a great trapping place. Thomas had for company the Indian trappers and the wild animals such as the deer, wolves, prairie dogs and wild chickens.

He made friends with the Indian. They never gave him any trouble but were always very careful not to cause a stampede of his cattle. He convinced them that like William Penn that he was a friend of them.

In the year 1824, when he was eighteen years old he herded a drove of cattle in Ohio, which belonged to his brother,







John, for which he received seven dollars per month. This was the first money he had ever earned for himself. His employer allowed him half of a drovers month for return trip and he walked to market, five hundred miles, for three dollars and fifty cents. The next summer he and my mother, Frances Head, were married on the 5th day of August, 1825. They had very little to start with so they then commenced to work to make a home. He bought a hundred acres of wild timber land where they built their log cabin and took up the responsibilities of life. They lived there a few years and were able to pay for the home. He sold it for enough to help buy a larger farm. At this time, 1830, he was herding cattle on the plains north and in the vicinity of where Oxford now stands and south to the Warren-Benton county line. During this time he traded a horse to a man by the name of Luke Connor for his claim to 2,000 acres of land then known at the Lost Land. The value of the horse was about fifty dollars. It was in the south eastern part of what is Oak Grove Township. It was not surveyed and he had only what is called a squatter's right or claim which was bought and sold without a deed. Soon after he sold his claim for one hundred dollars.

In the year of 1833, he bought four hundred acres of heavy timber land in Green County, Ohio. It was fine land and very heavily timbered with such as White Oak, Black Walnut, Sugar and Curley Maple. He hired help to cut and haul the logs to the sawmill, one and one half miles away, to be sawed into lumber for buildings. The finest lumber was the curley maple which was made into fine furniture. In the summer of 1848, father sold the farm to come to Indiana to make a new home. The old home was the only home we children had ever known and where all our childhood had been spent. There were so many associations it made it hard to leave all the early ties of childhood but we were going to a new country to make our future home. Then a sale was made of most of our household goods and the live stock except three horses which were kept for the boys to gather the crop of corn. Robert and his wife, Cephas and Joseph were to come through later with the horses.



When it came to leaving the old home, it is only those who have had the trial of leaving the only home where they have spent the days of their childhood and all the pleasant memories which we must leave but the time came when father said the wagons were loaded and we must start. I took my mother's arm and we walked through the house and took a last look at the old home we were leaving to strangers to possess. We closed the doors and walked away with memories of other days.

We were to travel by way of the canal. My Uncle Robert and Brother Robert took us and our furniture and household goods to Dayton, twenty-five miles away, in the wagons. We had to stay there two days and nights before we could get a boat. Father hired a room in a hotel where we stayed until the afternoon of the second day when we took passage on an old leaky boat named "The Boston." The boat was manned by a sickly looking man, his wife, a short heavy set Irish woman, two small boys, seven and nine years of age, and two old blind horses. The boat was navigated by horses hitched to a long rope attached to the boat and walked on the tow path on the side of the canal. The old boat leaked so badly they had to pump out the water to keep the floor dry. Father was always ready to help in case of emergencies. He helped to pump or steer the boat. The third day the captain fell overboard and he had to be fished out. The oldest boy took the rudder and the next day he fell into the canal. He was then wrapped in a blanket. By this time the force was getting weak and father proposed that he drive the old horse. It was evening and all went well until it got dark, then he found something was amiss and called "ahoy," "ahoy," "I have lost my horse." He got a lantern and found that the old horse fell down the bank. The fifth day we got to Piqua where we changed for a good boat for Logansport. There we changed for a first class packet. They carried the mail and went with a rush. In due time we got to Lafayette, then came down the canal to a little place named Granville and stayed all night in the old warehouse. The next morning father was ready for business. He went out and soon found two men with teams. We loaded our household goods and all the family on top without cover. In a short time



it commenced to rain and we wrapped up with sheets and blankets and were comfortable. About noon it stopped raining. When passing a house father said we were to stop and warm and eat dinner. Then we started for our future home and we got there in the evening, tired, cold and hungry. Father had bought a cook stove in Dayton. They soon unloaded it and we soon had a fire and a warm supper.

The land he had sold in 1830 for one hundred dollars, had been surveyed by the government and he bought most of the 2,000 acres for thirteen dollars per acre.

He bought twelve hundred acres in Warren county and settled there with his children about him. He bought the farm, where Harry Pierce now lives, from William Foster, where he had his home for many years. He built a house, the first summer hauling all the lumber from a sawmill on Coal Creek in Montgomery County doing most of the hauling himself. He bought other timberland in Warren County for wood and rails which he helped cut and split.

He soon turned his attention to raising stock, feeding cattle and hogs, for the market. He was never too busy to greet friends or strangers with a warm welcome. He was always cheerful and kind in his home. He never turned the poor or homeless from his door unaided and many a widow and orphan was made comfortable by his help which he was always ready to give. He was one of the first commissioners of Benton County in which office he served for several years. In 1864 he was elected to the lower house of the state legislature, representing Benton and White counties. In the year 1876 he went to the Centennial at Philadelphia and to attend the Peace Congress of which he was a lifetime member for he believed in universal peace and the freedom of the slaves. When he was seventy years old he started on a trip to Iowa to see his last living brother, Isaac, who was blind. He made this trip in the winter time on foot, his only companion being his cane.

He sold his home farm to my youngest sister and moved to Oxford with my mother to spend the evening of their long useful lives in the quiet of their old age, where they received their many friends and their surviving children. In the winter of 1892, father was very sick. Mother died the fourth of Jan-



uary and father lingered until the eighth, when he quietly passed away. They were buried in the one wide deep grave together. They had their long useful life together and were not parted in death. Now we will leave them for they have gone to their reward to dwell in that better land which flows with peace forever and forever. Farewell.

Written by Phoebe Atkinson Baldwin.





### Frances Head Atkinson

We regret that little information is obtainable concerning the early life of Frances Head Atkinson, without mention of whom this history would be incomplete.

She was the daughter of Benjamin and Beulah Brackney Head. Her early years were spent in Highland County, Ohio. While she was yet a child, her father died, and Beulah Head was married to a Mr. Lindsey. To them were born twin children, Joseph and Rachel Lindsey (Irvin), to whom Frances Head was devoted. Joseph Lindsey was married to Abigail Whinery, and much of his life was spent near his half sister, with whom he made his home in his old age.

Frances Head was of Quaker origin, but not a member of the Quaker church, though in deference to her husband, she always used the plain language.

In appearance, she was in marked contrast to her husband—of medium height, with soft brown hair about a round face, and with sparkling dark eyes that were undimmed at eighty one. She dressed plainly as was the Quaker custom, and in her earlier days wore a cap. Later, her dress was of plain black with a shoulder cape or worn with a plain lace collar or folded kerchief. Her home dress was often of lavender print worn with a plain straight apron of brown check gingham. She was of gentle but fearless disposition. During the first years spent in Benton County, she often stayed alone with her small children, barring the doors against invasion of wolves and other wild beasts. Indians also were a peril in those days. She was industrious, "looking well to the ways of her household," spinning the thread and weaving the cloth for their clothing. Blankets and coverlets, woven by her hands, are still preserved by her grandchildren.

She was of an affectionate nature, with ready sympathy for any ill. She was devoted to her husband and family and her prayer was that she might not be left alone in her old age. This was granted her, and she quietly passed away, without suffering, January 4, 1892, four days previous to the death of her husband.



## REMINISCENCE

The time of our annual reunion of the Baldwin family at the old Baldwin home will soon be here. Many of those who will meet with us are graduates of the Old Academy, where they had the best of teachers and where they spent many happy days before going out to take their places in the world.

I was thinking what a contrast it is to the time when I started to school 75 years ago in the old log school house in Ohio with its rough benches of side split logs smoothed off a little with holes bored on the under to put the legs in. The house was eighteen by twenty in size with one long window on the south side. Under that was a writing desk with a rough bench to sit on. There were smaller benches of the same kind for the little children. On the north side was a wide fire place which took up most of the space. There was the teacher's desk with the high stool where the teacher sat to hear the recitations. On the desk lay the hickory gad, the ferrule and the dunce cap, and woe to the one who disobeyed.

We had no steel pens then, the teacher made the pens out of goose quills, so goose quills were in great demand. Our mothers made ink out of Maple bark and copperas by boiling until it was a very dark purple, then it was very nice ink.

We had many good teachers. My Uncle Isaac Atkinson taught two terms there. Some of you remember Uncle John Fletcher and Robinson Fletcher, they went to school when I did in the old log house.

The greatest ambition in our school was spelling and writing. All the townships had large schools and each would practice on spelling. The teacher would have a spelling match on Friday afternoon and once a month some of the other schools would come for a contest so there was much rivalry in the schools.

It was there in the old school house that I spent my first school days with my brothers, Joe, Cephas and Robert, as a happy, carefree child, and no other place brings back the memory of days gone by, of childhood and friends as the old log school house.



I hope that you will remember in years to come of the many times we have met here and the big dinners we have had in the shade of the big walnut and giant oaks perhaps a century old, all in their primeval beauty.

Now at the age of eighty five, I hope I will be there to bid you all a welcome to the old home, my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Written by Phoebe Atkinson Baldwin, June 30th, 1913,  
just previous to Baldwin Reunion.



## IN REMEMBRANCE

This is written to the memory of our dead mother, Frances Head Atkinson, of her life in Ohio while father was herding cattle on the plains of Indiana during the years of 1831 and 1832.

She was left alone in her little log cabin to care for three or four children but she was ready to meet the things which stared her in the face, to help pay for their home and meet them with a determination which meant I will succeed.

She told me of her first experience in the little log cabin. She had one horse, one cow and a few sheep. That spring she sheared the sheep, washed and picked the wool, tied it in a bundle and carried it on horse back three and one half miles to Charlestown to John Pierce's carding machine to be carded into rolls later to be spun into yarn. She did her own spinning and I have a blanket now made from that same wool eighty years ago, that was in the primitive time in the days long ago.

Our mother was a lady born. She was endowed with that hospitality and kindness that identified the Southerner in their homes, where friends find a home and strangers a welcome. She never turned the weary traveler unaided from her door. She reared twelve children, six sons and six daughters and to them she gave the best of her life. They now rise up and call her blessed.

She was a church member for many years, first the Friends, later the Methodist and later she lived her quiet life with the knowledge of duty well done.

She was one of the pioneers of Benton County in 1848, and did well her part in helping to provide homes for her family and coming posterity which is a monument to her memory and this twines around our hearts.

Our mother was of a jovial, lively disposition and enjoyed the company of the young folks and children and there was a great time when all of these twelve sons and daughters came home with the grandchildren, it was a merry time. It was on one of these occasions that she accidentally threw the cucumbers on John Callihan. She was terribly mortified, but with Broth-





er Isaac's quick wit and the use of a towel, he soon was as good as new and the merry time went on.

There are many of her grandchildren, today, remember the good dinners and nice times they have had with their Grandmother, which she enjoyed as much as they and they will look backwards to that as one of the happiest times of their childhood.

With all of her large family and the disadvantages she had to contend with she was a good business woman and her council and advice was asked on all important occasions.

Written in loving remembrance of our dear mother, at Oxford, Indiana, September 19th, 1912, by Phoebe Willis Atkinson Baldwin.



## HISTORICAL SETTING

A single event often shapes the destiny of a man's career.

Due to the fact that some travelers stopped and spent the night at the home of a brother of Thomas Atkinson, in Ohio, in the latter part of December 1828, or the fore part of January of 1829, Thomas Atkinson afterward became a citizen of Benton County.

George Worthington came to Maysville in the spring of 1824 with the colonies of Worthingtons and Himphills from Maysville, Kentucky. This colony raised large numbers of geese and turkeys and sold them in the autumn of 1825 and 1826. The geese were marketed at Cincinnati and the turkeys driven to Philadelphia. During the year of 1827, George Worthington having made arrangement with the settlers along the Wabash River to grow and furnish him with corn, he secured a drove of three hundred, two-year old steers, between Indianapolis and Cincinnati in southern Indiana. He brought these out on the prairie during the summer and finished fattening them near Maysville in the autumn. Sometime in the early winter the cattle were driven to market at Philadelphia and on crossing Ohio, George spent the night with John Atkinson. During the evenings discussion of the possibility of the new country, northward from Maysville, which George saw, was that of grazing cattle. John being interested in this kind of industry arrangements were made for John and probably Thomas to return with Worthington when he passed through on his return journey homeward.

It was in the spring of 1830 when the Atkinsons appeared in Indiana with a herd of cattle and Thomas was placed in charge of them north of Independence in Warren County, near Pine Village. Through the influence of Zachariah Cicot had with the Indiana living in this section, Worthington and Atkinson arranged for the herding of their cattle as far north as the Indian line, running diagonally across Benton County. They were to pay for any pasture taken north of this line but stayed south of it. This was done to prevent cattle stealing by the Indians. This menace however was removed when the govern-



ment purchased the territory north of the line in the year of 1832. Worthington took his cattle to the western part of Warren and Benton, west of Pine Creek, beginning near Carbondale in Warren County. Thomas Atkinson remained on the east side of Pine Creek, herding in eastern part of Warren and Benton counties. At a later period Thomas grazed his herds northward from White Oak Grove, where Oxford now is built, to the lake region to the north. The open prairie was transversed only by Indian Trails and was more dreaded by lone travelers than the most dense timber. The rank growth of Blue Stem was so tall on much of the land that it could be tied together over a tall horse's withers.

It was two years and more after Thomas Atkinson traveled across the open prairie and through the primeval groves with his herds before men selected these untrodden lands as their future homes. In the autumn of 1831, a weary traveler from far away Maryland camped on the banks of Big Pine Creek and selected that spot in the grove to be his home. Thus in the autumn of that year Thomas Timmons became the first permanent citizen of that region which was later to be Benton County. Four years were to pass before Henry Robinson and his brother, crossing the Wabash at Kickipoo, were to view the wonderful open prairie for the first time and in the following June to take up their abode in Parish Grove. Henry W. Ellsworth, the land baron of the thirties and forties did not come to Lafayette until 1835. Basil Justus did not erect his log cabin until 1835 at which time Judge McConnell became a resident of Oak Grove. Thomas Lewis, probably the first settler in the White Oak Grove country, settled there two years after the herds of Atkinson and Worthington browsed the prairie grass for the first time.

Transportation in those times was by horse back or in wagons drawn mostly by oxen teams. The Wabash Canal was not to reach Lafayette for thirteen years after Thomas herded cattle on the plains of Indiana. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the pioneer system of America, could boast of but seventy miles of track in 1832. By the menace of the Indians being removed through this section by their defeat in the Black Hawk War, settlers began moving westward in considerable numbers



in covered wagons. The Chicago Road, following an old Indian trail, passing from Lafayette through Oxford, Parish Grove, Bunkum and hence to Chicago, had its beginning about this time. This road became the thoroughfare for the settling of Chicago, which sprang into existence in 1832, and the states of the great North West.

That Thomas Atkinson had the respect of the Indians through the region in which he herded cattle is shown by one incident which took place at Independence where a trading post existed for traffic with the Indians north of the Wabash. A party of Indians came to trade one day in the early part of the thirties and one squaw leaned her papoose against a tree while she went inside to trade. After a time she came out of the building and found that her child had been eaten by some hogs which were about the post. Her screeches soon brought out the other members of the band and there seemed to the settlers that a massacre was certain. Knowing that Thomas was a follower of William Penn in his religious belief he was sent for by a messenger to come to the post immediately, being a few miles away herding. When he arrived the Indians were in a ugly and excited mood, which indicated trouble for the white settlers. Thomas spoke to them as his brothers and told them that they could kill all the whites as they were only few in number, but that the Great White Father at Washington would send many soldiers which would drive the Red Men from the country. After some parlying they left the post with presents from the settlers but the next day the settlers found their hogs killed by arrows which the Indians had used, they believing that the Evil Spirit had entered into the swine to kill one of their number.

Such are some of the historical events which cluster themselves about the years in which Thomas Atkinson was a herdsman on the prairies of Indiana. Facing such conditions as he had to contend with and endure would require a man colossal in character and strong in body of which his ancestors should be proud.

Written by Roy Atkinson.





### **ROBERT M. ATKINSON.**

Robert M. Atkinson was born May 8, 1826. In his 22nd year he was married to Catherine Rightsell, March 20, 1848. To this union five children were born, Jane, Sarah, Cynthia, Mary and Charles.

During this period of married life there were many hardships in this new country and a short time after Charles birth, his wife died. So the father was left with five small children. They were cared for by a sister or relatives.

On June 4, 1863, he was married to Mrs. Nancy McClimans Crosson, who had three sons, George, John and Will Crosson. To this union were born Morton C., Thomas Luther, Wilbert Mills, David Clarence, Alice, Curtis and Martha.

Of the first union, Sarah and Cynthia are living. Of the second union, Thomas Luther and Martha have passed away.

Robert M. was called by many "Honest Bob." He followed farming and stock raising. He was having cattle graze near Independence, Ind. It began to rain, the river rose and it began to freeze and sleet. The water was very deep. They tried to get them to go to highland. They would not and laid with heads up and the sleet froze on them up to their necks, and they were frozen to death.

February 16, 1848 he bought a farm of 160 acres in White Oak Grove. He was commissioner for over 20 years and was one of the first in the county. He and Isaac Lewis, built the first elevator at Oxford. He and Cephas Atkinson built the first elevator at Atkinson. He gave right of way through his land for Big Four R. R. He owned 1,800 acres at time of his death, and was in partnership with his brother Cephas, of 5,000 acres. His going left the community in great sorrow, as he was an adviser and of great assistance in a financial way.

Lucinda Jane, the eldest, was married to J. L. Williams and to this union were born five children, four sons and one daughter. All are married and live in the west. The mother died at her home in Nebraska over 40 years ago.

Sarah Emily was married to Charles Musson and to this union were born, Wallace and Eva. Charles passed away



a great many years ago. Later on in years, Sarah married Wm. McKelvey. To this union were born Jesse and Hattie. Eva and Hattie are at home. Wallace married Nettie Seese, of Oxford, Indiana. After 22 months the wife passed away leaving twin girls, 5 days old, Nettie and Etta. They were taken to the McKelvey home. After 13 weeks Nettie died. Etta grew to womanhood and married Edgar Akers of Pine Village. To this union was born a son Donald Edgar. Later on in years, Wallace went to Kingman, Indiana, bought a small farm and married Etta Tinnin. To this union, five children were born, Dorothy, of Pontiac, Michigan, Lucille, Glenn and Ralph and Mary at home. They now live near Bloomingdale, Indiana on a 300 acre farm of which 200 acres is woods, mostly walnut and hard maple.

Jesse McKelvey was married to Ethel McGiffin, of Oxford, Indiana. They live on a farm near Newtown. To this union two children were born, Dallas, in High School, and Irma will take Nurses training in Indianapolis at M. E. hospital.

Cynthia Anne, was married to Theopoliis Runner. To this union were born, Everette, Russell, William, Blanche, Eva and Cora. All are married.

Everette married Eva Nora Harper, to them were born Louise and Eunice. Russel married Maud Sanders, of Donovan, Illinois. Two children were born, Robert and Luella. They live in Greeley, Colorado. William Runner was married to Leeta Bergan. He is engaged in farming and hardware business. To this union were born, Orville, Lola, William, Dorothy, Harold, Alice, Raymond, Lillian and Ethel.

Blanche died quite young. Eva married Roy Eastburn. To this union were born Lorene and Helen. Lorene is teaching and Helen is in college.

Cora married Tennyson Ladd. To this union were born Mary, Richard, Glenn and Robert Milton. They are managers of a grocery in Ohio.

Mary Elizabeth was married to Simeon Dicken. Two children were born, Mary and Lee. Mary married Will Lewis, of Oxford, Indiana. Two sons and a daughter were born. All are married and have children. The two sons live in New York City. The daughter in Chicago.



Lee married Edna Swan, of Swanington. Two daughters were born, Oma and Opal. Ama deceased. Opal married Hamm, has a family and lives in Crawfordsville. Opal's parents live on a farm near New Market, Indiana.

Charles Atkinson never married, now deceased. Just a few months after Charles was born, his mother died. For some time Robert's five children were cared for in his home by a sister or some relative.



ROBERT M. ATKINSON

Morton C. was married to Mary C. Kennedy. To this union a son Robert was born. He married Adria Scott. To this union was born a son, Robert Morton, who only lived a few minutes. Morton and son engage in farming and stock raising on a large farm.

Thomas Luther, now deceased, was married to Maggie Liebhardt. To this union were born a son Harold and a daughter Forest. Harold married Ann Jandrell and a daughter, Forest Ann, was born to them. Forest married Barney Albert Willis. To this union were born Barney Jr., deceased and John Edward. After the marriage of Thomas Luther he lived on the



place of his birth south of Oxford. After a few years he and his family moved to Minneapolis, Minn., where his children were reared and married. Also the place of his death. He was a salesman for Rumely machinery.

Wilbert Mills was married to Margaret Quigley. To this union was born six children, Frank, Will, Ellen, John, Mary, Emmet. Frank and John deceased. Ellen married Cyril Datzman. Will married Leona Copas, of Fowler. All three families live in Indianapolis.

David Clarence was married to Lillian Knipp, of Bloomington, Indiana. To this union a daughter, Helen, was born. Helen married Nay McMinn. David and family live in Hammond, Indiana. He has farm land he rents out, but he practices law in his home town, Hammond.

Curtis was married to Anna Lindlay, at Bloomington, Indiana. To this union were born two children, a daughter and son. Daughter deceased. Graham is married. Curtis is quite a noted physcian in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Alice was married to a prominent artist, Wm. Forsyth, in Indianapolis. Alice was a fine artist. To this union three daughters were born, Margaret, Constance and Evelyn.

Martha died when a few days old.

Family of Theophilus C. and Cynthia Runner

Isaac Everette Runner, born March 7, 1877.

Robert Russel Runner, born December 29, 1879.

William Edward Runner, born October 6, 1881.

Alice Blanche Runner, born February 1, 1885.

Eva Agnes Runner, born June 25, 1887.

Luella Grace Runner, born February 14, 1913.

Robert Sanders Runner, born August 7, 1905.

Charles Milton Runner, born September 12, 1904.

Louise Cynthia Runner, born April 1, 1907.

Eunice Evaline Runner, born June 4, 1918.

Charles Orville Runner, born December 5, 1907.

Lola Blanche Runner, born December 29, 1909.

William Theophilus Runner, born October 12, 1912.

Dorothy Belle Runner, born February 5, 1914.

Harold Edward Runner, born May 16, 1917.





Alice Marie Runner, born September 19, 1919.  
Raymond Isaac Runner, born August 16, 1921.  
Lillian Edna Runner, born August 11, 1924.  
Ethel Pauline Runner, born May 1, 1927.  
Cora Charlotte Runner Ladd, born May 23, 1890.  
Mary Irene Ladd, born September 8, 1913.  
Richard Tennyson Ladd, born

#### Deaths

Robert M. Atkinson, married March 20, 1848 to Catherine Rightsell.  
Robert M. Atkinson married to Nancy Crosson McClimans, June 4, 1863.  
Catherine died October 3, 1862.  
Martha died April 7, 1876.  
Robert M. Atkinson died February 25, 1881.  
Nancy Atkinson died August 26, 1888.

#### Births

Robert M. born May 8, 1826.  
Catherine born June 1, 1827.  
Nancy born September 8, 1832.  
Jane born December 26, 1849.  
Sarah born June 30, 1853.  
Cynthia born August 27, 1855.  
Mary born August 1, 1857.  
Charles born August 10, 1862.  
Morton born February 29, 1864.  
Luther born October 17, 1864.  
Wilbert born January 18, 1868.  
David born April 8, 1872.  
Curtis born October 3, 1874.  
Alice born May 5, 1872.  
Martha born April 1, 1876.



**PHOEBE WILLIS ATKINSON**

Phoebe W. Atkinson was born in Clinton County, Ohio, on January 15, 1828. In 1832 she moved with her parents to a four hundred acre farm in Green County, near Xenia. This farm was what she called the Big Woods. Her education was obtained in the log school house, the county school of that day. Being the eldest of a family of twelve much depended upon her and her school days were limited in number.

When a girl she learned the tailors trade and became very skillful with the needle which she was able to use to the close of her eighty-ninth year. During the last two months of her life she made four beautiful drawn work doilies, much prized by her daughters. In the days before the sewing machines were invented she made all of her fathers and brothers clothes and also many for her neighbors, often sewing long into the night. She read extensively and remembered well. Her memory was excellent and remained clear up to the time of her death.

Before coming to Indiana, in the autumn of 1848, she was married to Ira Baldwin, June 4th of that year. There were seven children born to them, Thomas, Caroline, Mary Ellen, William Fillmore, Frances Maria, Lucy Ann and Annie Laurie. The greater number of these were born in the log house built in 1849.

Phoebe's life was a busy life. She was a true pioneer in all of her activities. She was not only Aunt Phoebe to her own nephews and nieces but also to all who knew her. There was never a death or a birth or a sickness among the neighbors but that she was asked to help. Throughout the long years of her life her thought was always to aid and assist those in need. The greatest ambition of Phoebe's life was to see that her children were educated and no sacrifice was too great. She was happy to have five of her seven children become public school teachers.

On July 2, 1917, Phoebe Baldwin drove with her granddaughter from Thorntown to Oxford to attend the Baldwin re-



union. This trip she enjoyed very much, being in her eighty-ninth year. She remained to visit in Oxford and took suddenly ill August 16. She died September 2, and was laid to rest within a mile of where she had lived for more than a half of a century.

The last ten years of her life, seemed to her children, to be the happiest of her lifetime.

Thomas Atkinson Baldwin, was born in a log cabin, one mile south of Oxford, on the home place of his parents, Ira and Phoebe Baldwin, March 28, 1849, at a time when Benton County belonged to the pioneering frontier.

At the age of six years his education was begun in the old Boynton school, later known as the Runner schoolhouse. Here he was an industrious student for about ten years, at which time his studies were interrupted by the serious problem of assisting in the many difficult tasks attendant upon wresting from the untamed land a living for a pioneer family.

After four years of untiring effort, at the age of twenty, he took up higher educational work at the Oxford Academy, where he studied for two and a half years. Another two and a half years were then spent teaching in the Academy, then three years in the Boynton school, where his education began. His work as a teacher ended with one years teaching in the Kirk school, two miles south of Templeton on Pine Creek.

In 1874 he was elected county surveyor and performed the duties of that office during the summer and taught at the Boynton and Kirk schols during the winters.

In 1878 he was elected county recorder and in the fall of that year took up his residence in Fowler. Here he was united in marriage to Eva Mock, October 26, 1882. Several years were then spent in the clothing, furniture and undertaking business, during which time Mr. Baldwin also took an active part in procuring the first gravel roads over the county and acted as engineer, for the gravel road south from Fowler to the county line.

In 1891 the family moved to Oxford where Mr. Baldwin engaged in the grain business.

After the financial panic of 1893, he moved with his fam-



ily to the farm one mile south of Oxford. Here he established and was manager of the Baldwin Fruit and Seed Farm until 1920, during which time an extensive business was developed and the Baldwin Fruit Farm became well known throughout this and nearby counties.

In the fall of 1920, the family of seven children all having engaged in other pursuits and the duties of the business proving too heavy, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin sold the farm and moved into Oxford for the second time. Here they spent three pleasant years before Mrs. Baldwin was called away in death January 1, 1924.

Since the death of his wife, Mr. Baldwin has spent a part of the time with his children in Lafayette, Madison, Wisconsin, and Springfield, Illinois, meanwhile maintaining his home in Oxford where he is now living.

Thomas A. Baldwin is now the oldest living member of the family of Thomas and Frances Atkinson and during the span of his lifetime has witnessed the development of Benton County from a raw frontier into one of the best agricultural counties of the state.

Ruth W. Baldwin, eldest child of Thomas A. and Eva M. Baldwin, was born in Fowler, Indiana, January 31, 1884. She was married to Charles K. Stembel on September 14, 1904. Four children have been born to this union. Ruth and her husband are living near Boswell on a farm where they have a Peony Garden, which is widely known.

Kenneth Leroy was born April 16, 1908 and died April 18, 1908.

Esther Lois Stembel, born April 22, 1909.

Audrey Lenore Stembel was born May 12, 1911.

Donald W. was born November 23, 1914.

William M. Baldwin, son of T. A. and Eva M. Baldwin, was born in Fowler, April 24, 1886. He was married to Mary Ellen Mounts, October 31, 1907 at Oxford. One son, Lyndon T., was born at Oxford on April 17, 1911. Later William was married to Grace Tucker at Springfield on November 12, 1925. They now reside at Springfield, Illinois. He is president of the Republic Casualty Insurance Company.





Wiley F. Baldwin, third child of T. A. and Eva M. Baldwin, was born in Fowler July 15, 1888. He was married to Dema Watters at Oxford on April 2, 1912. Three children have been born to this union. They reside at Rankin, Illinois. Now is Superintendent of a department on a Rail Road.

Doris Ellen Baldwin, born at Oxford, January 3, 1913.

Thomas Baldwin, born at Rankin, Illinois, September 28, 1919.

James Baldwin was born in Rankin, August 10, 1921.

Paul T., son of T. A. and Eva Baldwin, was born in Fowler October 16, 1890. He was married to Elizabeth Thrasher, October 10, 1911. They have two children. Their place of residence is Rockford, Illinois. Paul is a building contractor at Rockford.

Eva Rose Baldwin, born at Oxford, June 6, 1913.

Earl C. Baldwin, born at Urbana, Illinois, October 21, 1915.

Harry C., fifth child of T. A. and Eva M. Baldwin, was born near Oxford, January 9, 1893. He was married to Emma Wolfe, at Lafayette, Indiana, on June 16, 1923. Residence is at 12 Pierce St., West Lafayette, Indiana. He is in insurance business.

Ira L. Baldwin, fifth son of T. A. Baldwin, was born at Oxford, August 20, 1895. He was married to Mary F. Leash at Burros, Indiana, December 29, 1920. The children were Helen and Frances. Residence, Madison, Wisconsin. Formerly a teacher at Purdue, now teaching at University of Wisconsin.

Helen Lucille Baldwin, born in W. Lafayette, February 20, 1922.

Frances Mary Baldwin, born in W. Lafayette, December 8, 1924.

Ralph Baldwin, youngest son of T. A. and Eva M. Baldwin, was born at Oxford, August 2, 1897. Died in infancy.

Phoebe A., youngest daughter of T. A. and Eva M. Baldwin was born at Oxford, April 16, 1899. Phoebe and Fred H. Foster were married at Oxford on November 14, 1917. They are residing in Oxford.



Caroline Baldwin, eldest daughter of Phoebe and Ira Baldwin, was born in their log cabin about a mile and a quarter south of Oxford, October 16, 1850. For many years she was afflicted with an incurable malady which made her a great care to her parents. Her death occurred March 13, 1908.

Mary Ellen Baldwin, third child of Phoebe and Ira Baldwin, was born on the Baldwin farm south of Oxford, September 10, 1853. Here on this farm she grew to womanhood and was married to Charles B. Conklin, December 25, 1872. After the death of Charles Conklin in September 1876, she and her daughter Maude lived with her parents for several years. Mary Ellen was married to James Riley, November 28, 1888, and they moved to Thorntown. Since that time she has lived either in or near the town. During the month of May 1900, James Riley died and since Mary Ellen has resided with her daughter Maude. She taught school for several years and taught two terms in Oxford Academy under Miss Wilmuth as Principal.

Maude Conklin, only daughter of Charles B. and Mary Ellen Conklin, was born near Oxford, March 20, 1874. She made her home with her grandparents for several years and then went with her mother to live at Thorntown. Maude was married to Marley Riley, November 24, 1897. Marley Riley was connected with the Serum plant at Thorntown for several years and at present is in the insurance business. One daughter, Beulah Frances, has been born to this home on October 26, 1911.

William Fillmore Baldwin, fourth child of Phoebe and Ira Baldwin, was born at the Baldwin homestead February 6, 1856, and died March 6, 1899.

Frances Mariah Baldwin, fifth child of Ira and Phoebe Baldwin, was born south of Oxford, October 23, 1857. After securing what education she could at the local schools she attended the State Normal at Terre Haute. For a number of years she taught school in Benton County and later was a teacher in the Primary department of the Public Schools of Peoria, Illinois. In the year of 1884 on July 24, she was married to Henry W. Lynch, of Sheldon, Illinois at the Baldwin home and then went to Sheldon to live. This place was their



home for three or four years when they moved to Peoria. Mr. Lynch has served as Postmaster, also Mayor of Peoria. At present he is in the banking business in that city. Two boys have been born into this home.

Ralph A. Lynch, eldest son of Henry and Frances Lynch, was born at Sheldon, Illinois, January 15, 1886. He was married to Hazel Cooper of Chicago, Illinois, on December 19, 1912. There has been two children born to this union, Helen Frances, born May 1917 and William Atkinson, born January 18, 1920. Their home is at Peoria, Illinois, 211 Moss Ave.

Harold Lynch, youngest son of Henry and Frances Lynch was born at Peoria, Illinois, October 7, 1888. He was married on August 29, 1912, to Irene Lidle, of Peoria. They have three children, Robert Henry, born August 18, 1915; Harold Whitcomb, born December 30, 1917, and Burton Lidle, born June 8, 1925. Their home is at 806 Biglow Street, Peoria, Illinois.

Lucy Ann Baldwin, sixth child of Ira and Phoebe Baldwin, was born at the Baldwin homestead on February 4, 1860. After securing her education she taught school in the county for a number of years. While teaching in Boswell in the autumn of 1885, on October 28, she was united in marriage to G. B. James of that place. They lived in Talbot after their marriage where they conducted a general store. To this union were born three children, two of whom died in infancy. Lucy died on November 7, 1900. Mr. James went to live with his mother in Boswell, and his daughter went to Thorntown to live.

Lucy Marie, daughter of Lucy and George James, was born at Ambia, Indiana, September 23, 1897. She was three years old when her mother died and she went to live with her aunt at Thorntown. Here she remained for about three years when she returned to live with her father, who was at his mother's home in Boswell at this time. Lucy Marie was married to Edward Haubrich, of Indianapolis, December 29, 1923. He was a graduate of Herron Art Institute and is an Advertising artist.

A daughter Mary Louise, was born to this union on April 29, 1926. Their home is in New York City, 150 Haven Ave.



Annie Laurie, youngest daughter of Ira and Phoebe Baldwin, was born south of Oxford, December 23, 1861, and died October 29, 1922. After she reached maturity she taught school for some time and was united in marriage to Price T. Evans, a young doctor, on March 6, 1883. He began practicing at Ambia and later moved to Burlington, Kansas. They resided at this place for a few years and later moved to Strawn, in the same state, where Price Evans died, March 30, 1896. She remained at Strawn for a few years when she moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, so that her son Robert, might attend Rose Polytechnic College. Later Laurie came to live with her mother and after a time, she, her daughter Lucy and Phoebe Baldwin, moved to Oxford to live. As it was necessary for Laurie to leave Oxford on account of failing health she and Lucy went to Oklahoma and after some time died there. Five children were born to Price and Laurie Evans.

Lucy Evans, eldest daughter of Price and Annie L. Evans, was born at Ambia, March 15, 1884. The greater part of her life was spent in Kansas after her father's death she remained with her mother until her mother died. While living at Oxford she worked in the Bank of Oxford. Later when moving with her mother to Oklahoma, she entered a bank in that state. Lucy was united in marriage to Marion E. Newland on April 12, 1926. Their home is near Oklahoma City, Rural Route 2.

Robert Baldwin Evans, eldest son of Annie and Price Evans, was born at Burlington, Kansas, June 15, 1885. He was united in marriage to Julia Burge, of Peoria, Illinois. They lived for a few years on the Ira Baldwin farm south of Oxford and later moved to a farm near New York City. At present he is employed by an Electrical Company. Their home is at 1530 West 6th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Two sons have been born to this home, James and Richard.

William E. Evans, fourth child of Annie and Price Evans, was born at Strawn, Kansas, March 3, 1889. On the 9th of March 1910, he was united in marriage to Hattie Atkinson, daughter of Frank Atkinson, of Oxford. Hattie died during the year of 1918. There were two children born to William and Hattie Evans, Frances Elwin, on October 7, 1911, and Lucy D.







on September 23, 1916. William was united in marriage to Ola Fuller, November 28, 1920, and they now reside at Wolcott, Indiana, where William is proprietor of the Lyric Theatre.

James Warren Evans, son of Dr. Price and Annie Laurie Evans, was born in Strawn, Kansas, November 16, 1890. His father, Dr. Evans, died in 1896 and a few years later the mother moved with her family to Emporia and later from that place to Oxford, Indiana.

It was at Oxford that James attended and graduated from High School. During the time he was in high school, he wrote a history of Benton County which was exhibited with honor at the World's Fair at St. Louis. James graduated from Purdue, Dept. of Civil Engineer, in year of 1914. The Purdue annual states that he held the following offices, president of Y. M. C. A., Cadet Lieutenant, Captain of the Varsity Track Squad and also won a "P" and "Numerals" in his Track Squad and also states that he was strong in his class work and was elected to the "Tau Bates," an honorary Engineering Fraternity to which only engineers of the highest scholastic standing were eligible. While in school he was a staunch supporter of anything that pertained to man's moral and spiritual uplift and was a very industrious worker.

For two years following his graduation from Purdue, he was employed by a Chicago Construction Company, working at Chicago, and St. Louis. The following three years were spent in the Philippines, doing government surveying. Upon his return he brought an interesting collection from Japan and the Phillipines.

During the following school year of 1916 and 1917, he taught in the Engineering Department of the Oklahoma Agriculture and Mechanical College at Stillwater, Oklahoma. Here he met Nellie Rockey, to whom he was married, September 27, 1917. The following four years were spent in Oklahoma City, where he was employed first in the State Highway Department and later as Sanitary Engineer in the State Health Department.

During these years, on June 28, 1919, and June 15, 1921, there were born to him and his wife, Virginia June, and Robert



Rockey, respectively, while living in Oklahoma City. In the autumn of 1921, he and a friend H. B. Garrett, formed a partnership for the purpose of building roads, bridges, water works and similar construction works. They had completed one road in southern Oklahoma, and were building a second near Madil in the same state when James was accidently killed by a tractor, July 4, 1922. The body was taken to Oklahoma City and buried in Fairlawn Cemetery.

James Warren Evans combined the qualities of high intelligence and complete unselfishness and was a most lovable character. Every one who met him loved him and all mourned his leaving.

His third child, Joan Evans, was born December 3, 1922.



### **CEPHAS ATKINSON**

Cephas Atkinson, the third child of Thomas and Frances Head Atkinson was born in Clinton County, Ohio, November 16, 1829. When he was four years of age he moved with his parents to a heavily timbered land of four hundred acres in Green county. As this was his home for fifteen years he gave what assistance he was able to the clearing the timber from the land so that it might be cultivated. The timber when sawed into lumber was used for the buildings and the surplus sold adding something to the meager income of the family.

Some education was secured at the log school house nearest their home. It is not known what time was spent in school but whatever education he secured was used to a good advantage in later years in business activities. It was during his early childhood that his father herded cattle in Indiana. One of the sports which Cephas enjoyed while living in Ohio was that of hunting wild turkeys. On moonlight nights in the late autumn after the turkeys had become fat on nuts and fruits in the timber he would ride out into the forest on a horse and take his dog with him. Going to the place where he knew turkeys to roost he would frighten one from the trees. It was the habit of the turkeys when fat to make one long flight, then run for a distance and hide when disturbed after they had become quiet for the night. Knowing this habit, Cephas would follow it to its hiding place which was usually in a pile of brush. He was able to secure several turkeys each autumn in this manner.

In the summer of 1848, his father, Thomas, decided to come to Indiana to make his home and after a sale, with only the necessary household goods, a wagon and three horses retained, the family, except Cephas, Joseph and Robert, traveled by the Canal to Granville, Tippecanoe county. Cephas remained to assist in disposing of some crops and then came to Oxford in a wagon in November. Then for a few years he assisted his father with the work on the farm located south of Oxford.

In July 1852, Cephas was married to Rachel Birch, daughter of Solomon Birch, who was living on a farm, the house was located about twenty rods south of the Cephas At-



kinson homestead. On November 9th, Cephas purchased the farm which became their home from Robert Watkinson, entered by him, May 15th, 1837. The land south of the Deer Park was secured from Solomon Birch and west of the road from Reuban Blessing, her stepfather. Some of the land he secured in later years was a part of the Lost Land his father traded a horse for in 1830.

In the years which followed the marriage of Cephas and Rachel, there was born to them six children, Frances, Isaac Newton, Emma, Lewis and Lucy, twins and Adah.

In business Cephas was very successful. His one principal business was that of a cattle feeder. He had on his farms at all seasons of the year large droves of cattle preparing them for the market. His aim in securing land was to obtain more pasture and feed for his cattle. At the time of the panic of 1893, he owned about nineteen thousand acres of land mostly in Benton county. Some time previous to 1893 Cephas became associated with some other men in the grain business. As his investments were in large amounts of grain when the financial depression came in 1893 he was unable to successfully weather the storm and he lost practically all he had accumulated in the early part of his life.

In politics he was a staunch Republican yet never held any public office. His religious belief associated him with the Spiritualists, being a member of that church. He was a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge, being a charter member of the first lodge instituted in Lafayette. He was also a man with a wonderful faith in humanity, never questioned the honesty of a man's word. This trait of character had on numerous occasions caused him financial loss. His death occurred April 6, 1905 at the home where he had lived for fifty two years.

Mary Frances Atkinson Menefee was born south of Oxford on the Atkinson Homestead June 6, 1853 and died in Parish Grove February 16, 1923. She was the oldest child of Cephas and Rachel Birch Atkinson. All of her childhood was spent on the farm, in fact her whole life was spent in the country except for a period of thirteen years when she and her husband lived in Boswell. Her education was secured at the Runner School and perhaps some time spent at the Oxford Academy.





She being the eldest of a family of six children much of the work at home depended on her.

She was united in marriage to Charles Menefee, September 11, 1873. They began housekeeping in one room in the home of a family by the name of Spies in Boswell. There they remained for one year having bought in the meantime an acre of land upon which to build a home. The Lake Erie railroad had laid the tracks through Boswell in the fall of 1870 and soon afterwards Charles and Peter Menefee embarked in the lumber business.

There were eight children born to Mary Frances and Charles Menefee four of whom died in infancy. Gladys and Clifford were born in Boswell and Lucy and Hattie after moving to the country.

On March 1, 1886 they moved to a farm in Parish Grove, a grove which had been named for the Indian Chief, Parish, who had lived for many years within the grove. On this home in the grove she spent the remainder of her life devoting her time to the caring of her family and her other home duties. She had time however to give something to the community as she had been a member of the Boswell M. E. church since 1882 and was a faithful worker in the Ladies Aid Society of that church. She was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star of Boswell. Frances lived to the age of almost seventy years, several years more than any other member of the Cephas Atkinson family.

Nattie May, eldest child of Charles and Frances Menefee was born September 1, 1875 and died November 3, 1878.

Gladys B., second daughter of Charles and Frances Menefee was born in Boswell, July 20, 1877. She was married to Wm. E. Palmer November 26, 1902. They now reside in Boswell where Mr. Palmer is cashier of one of the Boswell banks.

Infant son born to Charles and Frances Menefee. Died at early age.

Ethel Florence, third child of Charles and Frances Menefee was born October 31, 1881 and died September 24, 1882.

Clifford Cephas, eldest son of Charles and Frances Menefee, was born in Boswell August 2, 1883, and was married to Elnora Noll, February 24, 1904. They lived several years on a



farm north of Parish Grove. They are now residing in Boswell. One son, Charles Franklin, was born to this home on April 21, 1912.

Lucy May, fifth child of Charles and Frances Menefee, was born in Parrish Grove May 3, 1886. She was united in marriage to Jacob H. Smith, April 15, 1908. They are living at present on farm near the grove. One child, Morris M., was born to them March 4, 1917, death occurring at birth.

Elwood Winfield, second son of Charles and Frances Menefee, was born in Parish Grove July 17, 1888 and died August 6, 1889.

Hattie Rachel, youngest child of Charles and Frances Menefee, was born in Parish Grove May 9, 1892. She was united in marriage to Ernest Reutter October 6, 1913. They are now living on the Menefee Homestead in Parish Grove where they are giving their attention to farming and raising pure bred live stock.

Newton Atkinson, second child born to Cephas and Rachel Atkinson, was born one and one half miles south of Oxford on the Atkinson Homestead on September 29, 1855. Here he spent practically all his boyhood days, assisting with the farming and the handling of the droves of cattle. His education was secured at the Runner school, located about a mile south west of his home. Later he attended the Oxford Academy, but his mind being more on farming than school work did not remain for any length of time. The condition of the country when he was a young man was indicated by the stories which he told of chasing the wild deer across the prairie where Fowler now stands. Often while herding he would find the young deer hiding under the broad leaves of the Rosin weed to escape the countless deer and green head flies.

Newton was married to Eliza Jane Smalley, grand daughter of Andrew Pierce, of Pine Village, on November 2, 1881 at the Smalley home. They began the homemaking on a farm one half mile south and one half east of Cephas Atkinson. In the spring of 1863 they moved to a farm near Gilboa church, located about ten miles north east of Fowler, Indiana. This farm was



on an old Indian trail which lead from the Wabash country to Newton (Rensselaer) on the Iroquois river. The northern boundary of his farm marked the northern limit of land entered at the government land office at Crawfordsville.

For a number of years he farmed and assisted his father in the handling of his cattle. After the year of 1893 he then took up the business of raising and buying cattle, later to be fattened for the market. In this line of business he was very successful as on a number of occasions he received the top price on the Chicago market. This business was conducted along with his regular farming operations, attempting to raise sufficient feed for the herds he had on his farm but often was compelled to buy some corn from his neighbors.

In the panic of 1893 Newton suffered business reverses in connection with his father but profiting by the mistakes of Cephas Atkinson he accumulated considerable property in later life. At the time of his death he was one of the directors of the State Bank of Oxford.

Politically, Newton was a Republican and likely never strayed very far from the party. He was appointed Trustee of Pine Township to complete the term began by George Norwood in January 1903 and was elected to a term of office in the autumn of 1904. He used the same business principle in office as he did in his own business and left the township on a firm basis financially.

In character he was absolutely honest and holding to the quotation "A man is a man for a' that." He was unostentatious and unassuming in a marked degree for a man who had always had an abundance. His health failed and he died on the second of February, 1911, at the age of fifty-four. He was buried at Gilboa Cemetery which is located on his farm. Seven children have been born to Newton and Eliza Jane Atkinson, all of whom live near to the homestead.

Roy C. Atkinson, eldest son of Newton and Eliza Atkinson, was born two miles southeast of Oxford, Sept., 19, 1882. He was married to Nelle E. Shand, Sept., 1, 1908. He now resides on a farm one and one half miles south of Bethany Chapel. One child was born to Roy and Nelle Atkinson. Francis Earl was born May 22, 1915.



Earl N. Atkinson, second son of Isaac Newton and Eliza Jane Atkinson, was born June 7, 1884, on farm near Gilboa. He was married to Pearl Ruth Christman, June 1, 1918. To this union have been born three children. Cathleen L., born August 1, 1919. Pauline M., born July 20, 1920. Donald Earl, born December 27, 1926.

Ray E. Atkinson was born near Gilboa church, October 8, 1887. He was married to Alta Busey Sept., 27, 1911. His home now is on farm located on Mt. Gilboa ridge. Three children have been born to them. Genevie Eiline, born Oct., 20, 1918. Robert Raymond, born March 27, 1917 and died four days later. Neil Edwin, born May 12, 1924.

Claude L., the fourth son of Isaac N. and Eliza J. Atkinson, was born in Pine Township January 29, 1890. He was married to Pearl Goldy Gardner February 13, 1912. To this union have been born five children. He now resides on farm near Mt. Gilboa. Dorothy I., born April 30, 1913. Doris A., born October 20, 1915. Arnold C., born September 8, 1919. Esther E., born April 6, 1922. Ira Newton, born September 30, 1926, and died about two months later.

Lloyd S., youngest son of Newton Atkinson, was born January 17, 1894. During the world War he was in service overseas with the 52nd Battery, 7th Anti-air Craft Artillery.

Opal R. Atkinson, was born on farm near Gilboa church October 14, 1897. She was united in marriage to Homer Kensell, May 17, 1917. She now lives on a farm about one mile from the Newton Atkinson homestead. The children born into this family are, Irma Lucille, born June 11, 1919; Evelyn B., born March 1920, and died five days later; Frederick A., born June 11, 1921 and Richard Byron, born January 23, 1927.

Bessie L., the youngest daughter of Newton and Jennie Atkinson, was born in Pine Township, October 11, 1901. She was united in marriage to Clyde Hackley December 15, 1923. Bessie now resides on the old Atkinson homestead in Pine Township. There has been two children born to this union. Deloris M., born October 4, 1924. Glenora L., born November 11, 1925.

Emma Atkinson, the third child of Cephas and Rachel Atkinson, was born south of Oxford April 10, 1859. Here she







grew to young womanhood and was married to Marion Liston in her seventeenth year. She died when her son was born November 7, 1877, the child living but eight days.

Emma was a very popular young lady, vivacious and with a disposition which attracted a large number of friends.

Lucy Ann Heath one of the twins of Cephas and Rachel Atkinson was born near Oxford, March 1, 1864. She died at the Home Hospital at Lafayette, March 29, 1924, following a fall at her home a few weeks previous. She was the last of the six children to pass to the Great Beyond.

Lucy was married to David S. Heath January 2, 1886 at the Atkinson home south of Oxford, where they remained for about a year when they moved to Aydelotte on one of Joe Heath's farms. At that time Aydelotte consisted of a blacksmith shop and a general store with a Post Office. The mail was brought to this Post Office by a carrier from Oxford once a week and a few years later twice a week. This store became a meeting place for the neighborhood with political meetings shooting matches and games of horse shoes some of the amusements. After a few years of residence near the store David and Lucy moved a short distance farther north on a farm formerly owned by a Mr. Sumalt.

While living at Aydelotte two children were born to this home, Ethel and Joe. During the year of 1904 they moved to Oxford to make that place their home. Here they spent the remainder of their days where David was engaged in overseeing his farms and in the banking business. It was probably at Oxford that Lucy gave her greatest efforts towards community affairs. She was united with the Presbyterian Church February 4, 1912 and was a member of the Oak Grove Chapter No. 128, Order of Eastern Stars. Though her health would not permit strenuous efforts she was always generous in her encouragement and giving. Children were very interesting to her and the unfortunate in the town were very often remembered by her. Lucy overlooked the faults of humanity, she only saw and praised the good.

Lucy secured her common school education at the school south and west of her home and later attended the Academy at Oxford for a number of terms. About that time a normal



was held at Boswell and she attended probably staying with her sister, Mrs. Charles Menefee, who was living in Boswell.

Ethel Heath Steele, only daughter of David S. and Lucy Ann Heath was born near Aydelotte, Indiana November 20, 1889. She was united in marriage to Roy Steele February 10, 1915. They lived on a farm south of Templeton, Indiana, for nine years and since have resided in Oxford. Three children have been born to this union.

Virginia Ann, born September 28, 1918.

Heath C. Steele was born December 10, 1924.

Polly Joan was born in Oxford February 5, 1926. Died in Oxford March 21, 1927.

Joe Heath, son of David S. and Lucy Ann Heath, was born on the farm near Aydelotte January 15, 1894 and died at his home south of Oxford, due to an accident in an elevator crib, March 30, 1916. When he was about ten years of age he moved with his parents to Oxford. While here he attended the Oxford Public School and graduated from the High School in the spring of 1912.

He was united in marriage, September 22, 1915, to Jesse McNamee of Newcastle, Indiana. As he inherited from his father's and mother's ancestors a love of country life, he and his wife moved to his mother's farm south and east of Oxford. Here they enjoyed each others companionship but a short time when an accident occurred which caused his death a little more than six months after their marriage.

As a member of society Joe was very popular in this community. His kindness, high ideals and consideration of others gave him a place among his fellow men which few young men have been able to attain. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, uniting with this organization in February, 1912. On his twenty-first birthday he joined the lodge of Free Mason in Oxford and a short time later the Scottish Rite; including the Thirty second degree was conferred upon him.

Lewis Marion Atkinson, youngest son of Cephas and Rachel Birch was born one and one-half miles south of Oxford, March 1, 1864. On this farm he grew to manhood assisting his father in his farm and feeding operations. His education was



secured at the Runner School which was located on corner of cross roads one mile south west of his home.

On the date of October 27, 1885 he was united in marriage to Minnie Crosson, grand daughter of Basil Justice one of Benton County's early settlers. Lewis and his wife remained at the Cephas Atkinson homestead until the following March when they moved on one of Cephas's farms located one and one half miles north of Aydelotte. This farm was situated on the Old Indian Trail leading from the Wabash country northward and was near to Range 7. It was along this Range line that so many of the early settlers entered land from the Government for homes. It was at this home that their two children were born, Merle, January 16, 1888 and Harold Crosson, June 15, 1896.

Lewis Atkinson followed the profession of his father, that of farming and livestock raising. He devoted several years of his time on the farm near Aydelotte to raising of race horses. He took part in many of the county fairs, which were numerous at that time. The condition of the country when Lewis and his wife moved to the farm is shown by the fact that when they wished to go to Oxford they went straight across the country for several miles before reaching the road which leads into town. On this open country would be seen flocks of prairie chickens, foxes, an occasional wolf and if in the spring time, thousands of ducks and geese. One of his favorite sports was that of hunting. Many times he and his brother Newton have chased the foxes and wolves across the open country.

Lewis and his family moved to Oxford in February, 1902. While here he was engaged in the lumber business at Pine Village, Delphi, and later Bunker Hill besides attending to his farm, though not engaged directly until the later years of his life. The end came very suddenly December 22, 1923.

In character Lewis was of a benevolent nature ever mindful of the needs of the unfortunates in the surrounding community, many people benefiting by his inconspicuous generosity. His generosity was taken advantage of by unscrupulous people for their financial gain on several occasions. He was also of a jovial disposition being able to visit with children



as well as those of matured years and always ready to take and give jokes.

Merle Atkinson, daughter of Lewis and Minnie Atkinson was born near Aydelotte January 16, 1888. She spent thirteen years with her parents on the farm and then moved with them to Oxford in 1902. While living here she united with the Christian Church and graduated from the Oxford High School. She made many friends by her sociable, gentle and friendly disposition participating in the affairs of her school, church and community.

Merle was united in marriage to Martin Carr living northeast of Oxford, February 16, 1908. She then moved with her husband to his parents home. They had lived here but a short time when Merle became suddenly ill and died April 30, 1908.

Harold Atkinson, youngest child of Lewis and Minnie Atkinson was born on the farm north of Aydelotte, June 15, 1896. He was united in marriage to Maude Lester August 23, 1918. They now live in Oxford. One child has been born to this union, Lewis Lester, on June 15, 1919.

Adah Atkinson, the youngest daughter of Cephas and Rachel Birch Atkinson was born on the old homestead south of Oxford. She was a cheerful girl and had reached the age of a little more than fifteen years when she was brutally murdered by a middle aged man by the name of Jacob Nellings. Her death occurred when all the members of the family were absent from home except herself and Nellings, who had been in the employ of Cephas Atkinson for several years, on September 24, 1883.





## JOSEPH B. ATKINSON

Joseph Brackney Atkinson, the third son and fourth child of a family of twelve children born to Thomas and Frances Head Atkinson, early pioneers of Benton County, was born in Madison County, Ohio, February 13, 1832, and when about 3 years of age, moved with his parents to Green County, Ohio. Here he attended the district school held in a log school house and received only a limited common school education, to which by his own exertions he added considerable knowledge. In 1848, when just a young man, he came to Benton County, Indiana, with his parents. Until he was 24 years of age, he worked with his father on the home farm situated about 3 miles south of Oxford. At one time during his early manhood, he was employed by the late Theophilus Stembel for the wage of \$5 per month. In 1855 he purchased a partially improved farm of 160 acres situated in Oak Grove Township about 3 miles southwest of Oxford where a year later he with his young bride moved. This farm which he fully improved and which formed the nucleus of his extensive farm interests was named by him the Indian Grove Stock Farm, and is known as the Old Home Place. One interesting object on this farm is the Old Indian Hole which was a granary or cache where the Indians stored their corn.

It was on this farm the four children were born and where the family lived until 1876 when he purchased, moved to and improved a farm just a half mile south of the town of Oxford, Indiana. Here he lived until 1885 when he moved back to the old home place where he resided until his death, October 21, 1907. He was the last of the six sons of Thomas and Frances Atkinson.

On March 1, 1856, he was united in marriage to Rachael Waymire, of Warren County, Indiana, who was the daughter of Frederick and Mary Waymire, early settlers of that county. Four children blessed this union, two of whom are still living, Sarah J., (Mrs. B. F. Gephart) of Pine Village, Indiana, and Frank of Oxford, Indiana. Two children died in childhood.



Eva Alice was born June 25, 1860 and died December 7, 1863, and Elmer was born January 23, 1866 and died May 16, 1867.

Joseph followed in the footsteps of his father and was engaged in farming and stock raising all his life. In this chosen field of labors he attained marked success and was one of the leading stock raisers and dealers of the county. He had practically nothing to begin with but by economy, thrift and hard work accumulated several hundred acres of land in Benton and Warren Counties. He was a good judge of a steer, a shrewd trader and for years wintered his numerous cattle in Newton, Jasper and White Counties, feeding them shock corn and prairie hay and then finishing them out on corn in Benton County for the Buffalo and Chicago markets. One time he marketed 13 four year old steers in Chicago, that weighed over 2200 pounds each. Uncle Joe, as he was generally called, was a quiet, unassuming man of a kind and social disposition. He was very generous and was ever ready with practical help for those in need and brought much comfort and happiness into the lives of many persons. He possessed a ready wit and a quaint humor which made him an excellent conversationalist and which always gained for him a welcome into any family circle. His wife Rachael died April 10, 1919.

Frank Atkinson Sr., the third child and first son of Joseph B., and Rachael Waymire Atkinson, was born on the old home place, 3 miles southwest of Oxford, Indiana, June 29, 1863. Here he grew to a youth and attended district school in the old Boynton school house, known as No. 9. In 1876, he moved with his parents to a farm near Oxford, Indiana, where he completed his common school education in the old academy. Miss Wright was the principal at that time and a Miss Emma Zink and Miss Jane Bugbee, now living in Fowler, Indiana were his teachers. He was united in marriage October 17, 1883 to Grace Edna Taylor, of Warren County, a daughter of William Morgan and Sarah Pearce Taylor. To this union five children were born, four still living; Elmer, Joe, Daisy and Frank Jr., and one daughter, Mrs. Hattie Evans, deceased. For a year and a half after his marriage he made his home with his parents on the farm near Oxford, Indiana. In the spring of 1885, he moved to the old home place 3 miles southwest of



Oxford, where he worked as a partner with his father six years. In 1890 he purchased a part of his father's farm near Oxford to which he and his family moved February 2, 1891 and where he has since lived continuously. This farm is known as the White Oak Stock Farm, the name being suggested by a giant white oak tree standing in the yard. This tree has a wonderful history, for under its branches was held the first session of Benton County Circuit Court in 1840. By later purchases, he has added more land to this original farm and at the present time is one of the largest land owners in Oak Grove Township. When a young man, he became engaged in farming and stock raising and followed this line of business until a few years ago when he retired from active work. His wife Grace died November 16, 1926.

Elmer Atkinson, the oldest son and first child of Frank and Grace Taylor Atkinson, was born on the farm one half mile south of Oxford, Indiana, July 23, 1884. When a very small child his parents moved to his grandfather's farm 3 miles southwest of Oxford where he lived until 5 years of age when the family moved back to the farm near Oxford. He received his education in the old academy which stood in the "Academy Park," and which at that time was known as "The Oxford Public School," graduating from common school in 1899 and from high school in 1903.

He was united in marriage February 17, 1909 to Viola Ruth Phares, daughter of William R., and Isabella Stembel Phares. For six years after his marriage he lived on his father's farm near Atkinson, Indiana where the oldest child Harriet Rachel Atkinson was born, May 6, 1910. In the spring of 1915 he moved to the farm 3 miles southwest of Oxford where he now lives and where two other children were born, Olive Rosamond Atkinson, June 14, 1916 and Leonard E. Atkinson, September 9, 1917, and who died March 6, 1918.

Joe Atkinson, the second son and second child of Frank and Grace Taylor Atkinson, was born on his grandfather's farm 3 miles southwest of Oxford, Indiana, May 29, 1886. When just a few years of age, he moved with his parents to a farm near Oxford. He received his education in the Oxford Public School graduating from common school with the class of 1902. He



worked at home until July 4, 1909, when he was married to Minnie Lenore Christman, daughter of William R., and Alice Evans Christman. For three years after his marriage he lived with his parents where the oldest child, Dorothy Lenore Atkinson was born April 26, 1910. He then bought a small farm near Oxford where he lived until the winter of 1914 and where the second child, Joseph Frank Atkinson, was born January 7, 1914. Toward the end of the year 1914 he moved to the farm 3 miles southwest of Oxford, Indiana, where he now lives and where the third child, Virginia Irene, was born April 24 1918.

Daisy Atkinson Grandlund, the oldest daughter and third child of Frank and Grace Taylor Atkinson, was born on the old home place, 3 miles southwest of Oxford, Indiana, June 22, 1889. When quite young, she moved with her parents to a farm near Oxford. She attended school in the Oxford Public Schools, graduating from common school in 1904 and going 2 years in high school. She was united in marriage January 27, 1909 to Charles Albert Grandlund, son of Charles and Mary Johnson Grandlund. The first year of their married life was spent on the George Gutheridge farm 4 miles southwest of Oxford where their only child, Albert Lynden, was born October 21, 1909. In 1910 she moved with her family to her father's farm 3 miles southwest of Oxford and 5 years later to the farm near Oxford where she now lives.

Hattie Atkinson Evans, the second daughter and fourth child of Frank and Grace Taylor Atkinson, was born on the farm near Oxford, Indiana, May 2, 1891. She received her education in the Oxford Public School, graduating from common school in 1905 and from high school with the class of 1909. She was united in marriage March 9, 1910 to William Elwyn Evans, son of Price and Laura Baldwin Evans. The first year of her married life was spent in Oxford, Indiana. In the spring of 1911, she and her husband moved to her father's farm near Independence, Indiana. Here her two children were born, Francis Elwyn, October 7, 1911, and Lucy D. September 23, 1916. In the fall of 1917 she went to Oklahoma for her health, returning the following spring to her parent's home near Oxford where she died November 9, 1918.







Frank Atkinson Jr., the third son and fifth child of Frank and Grace Taylor Atkinson, was born on the farm near Oxford, Indiana, January 8, 1893. He obtained his education in the Oxford Public School, graduating from common school in 1909 and from high school in 1914. On September 30, 1914 he was married to Hazel Rommel, daughter of Henry and Alice Wells Rommel. Four children have blessed this union. Edna Alice, born September 17, 1915, Charles Raymond, born December 7, 1916, Ronald Faye, born June 18, 1922. With the exception of 2 years residence in Oxford where he was engaged in the vulcanizing business, he has lived since his marriage on his father's farm near Atkinson, Indiana. In the spring of 1927 he moved to Hammond, Indiana.

Sarah Jane Atkinson Gephart, eldest child of Joseph and Rachel (Waymire) Atkinson, was born October 24, 1857, in Oak Grove Township near the Warren County line, in Benton County, Indiana. She was inducted into this world when Benton County was yet unsettled and the forests were so infested with wild animals that the howl of the wolf and the scream of the wild cat were as familiar to her ears as the honk of the automobile is to the modern child of today.

Her parents were considered well to do people of that day but no luxuries were in their home as there is at the present day and they lived a very simple life. Under these environments she developed into girlhood and while yet a mere girl had to assist in the herding of cattle on the claims that were staked. Her first schooling was at the Runner school, two and one half miles southwest of Oxford. Later she attended the old Academy at Oxford which was located in the Park.

She grew to womanhood and was married at the old homestead to Benjamin F. Gephart, on November 16, 1873. To this union eight children were born, namely Nellie, Bert, Ernest, Lottie, Frankie, Carrie, Josie and Russel who died in infancy. They moved to Warren County, Medina Township, in the autumn of 1883 and lived there for forty years, later moving to Pine Village, their present home. B. F. Gephart, was born November 1, 1849.

Sarah was raised of Christian parents and was a Christian at heart, having been a devoted wife and mother. She is



ready to help anyone who is in need. "A wonderful being is a mother, other folks may love you, but only your mother understands."

Nellie G. Gephart, eldest daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born southwest of Oxford June 12, 1874. She was united in marriage to Elmer Solomon, March 2, 1892. Their home is at 33 Club House Ave., Los Angeles, California, where Elmer Solomon is engaged in Real Estate business. He was born October 13, 1870.

Bert, eldest son of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born in Oak Grove Township, September 14, 1876. He was married to Clara Hock, of Tippecanoe County, March 28, 1897. Their home is in Lafayette, 611 S. 19th St., Eight children have been born to this union.

Edith, eldest daughter of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, January 1898. Edith was united in marriage to Arthur Vaughn, of Kentucky, on January 26, 1916. One son has been born to them, Russell, on April 25, 1916. They are living on farm near West Point, Indiana.

Eva Allen, second daughter of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born in northeastern part of Warren County, November 25, 1899. She was married to Fred Koedam, of Attica, Indiana, on November 27, 1917. One child has been born to this union, Donald Frederick on September 3, 1918. Their home is at 720 Door Street, Toledo, Ohio.

Benjamin Russell, son of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born August 17, 1901 and died April 11, 1908.

Earl Hanley, second son of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born in Warren County, October 25, 1903. He was married to Lucille Dalbow, of Pine Village, on October 12, 1925. A son Eugene Earl was born to them on March 31, 1927. Their home is in Toledo, at 720 Door Street. Earl is employed in factory in Toledo.

Glen Wilber, third son of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born January 6, 1906 and died July 9, 1908.

Lola Leona, third daughter of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born March 2, 1910. Married to Wade Cambell, August 3,



1927. Live in Toledo, Ohio, at 722 Door St. Wade was born in Kentucky in year of 1908.

Lois Alice, fourth daughter of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born October 29, 1912. Lois and Lola are living with their sister Eva in Toledo.

Charles Lloyd, youngest son of Bert and Clara Gephart, was born August 4, 1916.

Ernest Gephart, was born southwest of Oxford, November 9, 1878. He was the second son of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart. On May 9, 1897, he married Annie Hock, from near Green Hill. Eight children have been born to this home. Their home is in Crawfordsville, Indiana, at 1508 W. Market Street, but have a farm near the city.

Bertha Arlene, eldest daughter of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born February 5, 1899. On February 20, 1918, she was married to Landy Myers, of Parke County. Four children have come to this home, all of whom were born in Montgomery County. Their present home is on farm near Ladoga.

Lillian Delores, eldest daughter of Landy and Bertha Myers, was born December 12, 1919.

Ernest Harrison, eldest son of Landy and Bertha Myers, was born March 28, 1922.

Rosanna, second daughter of Landy and Bertha Myers, was born July 1, 1923.

Donald Keith, youngest son of Landy and Bertha Myers, was born July 7, 1926.

Everette, eldest son of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, April 24, 1901. His trade is that of a baker.

Leo, second son of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born in Warren County, March 10, 1913. He was united in marriage to Nellie Brunton, of Ladoga, Indiana. Three children have been born to them. Their home is 304 Porter Street, Crawfordsville. Their marriage occurred September 1, 1922.

Junior, son of Leo and Nellie Gephart, was born August 16, 1923.

Betty Jane, daughter of Leo and Nellie Gephart, was born August 6, 1924.



Billie Lowell, son of Leo and Nellie Gephart, was born in October 19, 1926.

Lelah May, daughter of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born in Warren County, May 1, 1905. She was married to Vincent Swearington, of Montgomery County, December 21, 1921. Two children have come to this home. Their home is on farm near Waveland, Indiana.

Richard Eugene, son of Vincent and Lelah, was born June 9, 1923.

Marrianna, daughter of Lelah and Vincent Swearington, was born March 18, 1925.

Mildred Rosa, fifth child of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, June 1, 1907. She was united in marriage to Leo Airheart, June 5, 1926. Leo is a mechanic and they live at 4022 Clarington Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Arnold, son of Ernest and Annie Gephart, was born in Warren County, February 17, 1910.

Robert Max and Roberta Maxine, twins of Ernest and Annie Gephart, were born in Montgomery County August 11, 1922.

Lottie G., daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born southwest of Oxford, March 24 1883. She was married to Howard Harvey, of Warren Township, Warren County, on March 3, 1901. Three children have been born to this union. They are living on a farm near Independence.

Mary Leone, eldest daughter of Howard and Lottie Harvey, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, February 11, 1902.

Clifford Walter, son of Howard and Lottie Harvey, was born in Warren County, October 5, 1903 and died August 22, 1922.

Mayme Louise, youngest daughter of Howard and Lottie Harvey, was born in Jasper County, August 19, 1905.

Frankie Ray, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born at the Gephart homestead on July 13, 1886. She was married to H. Frank Spiker, of Clinton County, on October 12, 1904. Four children have been born into this home. They now reside on farm in Warren County.





Esther Elga, eldest daughter of Frankie and H. Frank Spiker, was born August 4, 1905. She was united in marriage to Paul Riffle, of Otterbein, on December 29, 1925. They reside in Otterbein where Paul is interested in Riffle's Store.

Kenneth Spiker, eldest son of H. Frank and Frankie Spiker, was born in Warren County January 31, 1907.

Dorotha Josie, daughter of Frank and Frankie Spiker, was born in Medina Township on December 30, 1908.

Sadie Margaret, youngest daughter of Frank and Frankie Spiker, was born in Warren County on November 23, 1911.

Carrie May, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, on July 16, 1888. She was united in marriage to Charles Sawyer, of Kansas, on September 9, 1906. One child has been born to them, Eva Mae, on May 2, 1907, at their home in Adams Township, Warren County.

Josie, youngest daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Gephart, was born in Warren County, on October 31, 1892. She was married to John K. Maxwell, from Brookston, Indiana, on June 9, 1915. Two children have been born to them. Their home is 606 W. Pice Street, Los Angeles, California, where John Maxwell is engaged in the jewelry business.

Nellie Jane, eldest daughter of Jose and John Maxwell, was born on February 25, 1922.

John K. Jr., youngest child of John and Josie Maxwell, was born March 3, 1927.

Benjamin Russell, son of Benjamin Gephart, was born in Medina Township, Warren County, on April 30, 1900 and died the following July.

Eva Alice, second daughter of Joseph and Rachel Atkinson, was born in Oak Grove Township, Benton County, June 25, 1860. and died December 7, 1863.

Elmer Atkinson, youngest son of Joseph and Rachel Atkinson, was born south of Oxford, June 29, 1865, and died May 6, 1867.



## ISAAC ATKINSON

Isaac Atkinson, fifth son of Thomas and Frances Atkinson, was born in Green County, Ohio, in the year of 1834, on August 6. He was a lad of fourteen when his parents moved to Indiana and built their home in the edge of the forest near the Warren-Benton county line. As he promised to be a student he was given a good education for those times. He received some education at the Grand Prairie Harmonical Institute, a Quaker school of Higher Learning, which Thomas Atkinson assisted in founding and also in which Horace Greely was interested. Isaac taught school for several years until he met with an accident which made it impossible for him to teach and finally caused his death. He was a young man with a brilliant intellect and was very witty. He read extensively and was considered a student far above the average. His death occurred in his twenty-eighth year, March 17, 1862.



## ZIMRI ATKINSON

Zimri Atkinson was born in Green County, Ohio, December 21, 1837, and was the fifth child of Thomas and Frances Head Atkinson. When a lad of eleven years of age he moved with his parents to Benton County where they purchased a home about two and one half miles south of Oxford. As a lad he received some education in the public school and later received an academic education, probably at Green Hill College, in Warren County.

Zimri assisted with the work on his father's farm until he was twenty one years of age when he was united in marriage to Mary J. Buckley, daughter of Stephan and Sarah E. Buckley, who were early settlers of Benton County. After his marriage he purchased a farm which was about midway between Chatterton and Winthrop, in Adams Township, Warren County. This farm was their home for about ten years when they sold it and purchased four hundred and twenty acres from John Ritenour, who lived about four and one half miles east of Pine Village. This farm was his home until his death which occurred February 26, 1882.

Zimri was elected by the Republican Party to serve as County Commissioner which office he held for eleven years. He was a member of the order of Free Masons and a Knight of Honor. There were born to Zimri and Mary Buckley Atkinson, six children, four of whom reached mature age.

Charles Millard, eldest son of Zimri and Mary Atkinson, was born north of Winthrop, August 8, 1858. He was married to Frances Elizabeth Moffett, who was born October 16, 1861, in May or June 1881. They lived in Pine Village for a number of years until 1908 when they moved to Indianapolis. Their home is at 3104 Central Avenue.

Lodie, eldest daughter of Millard and Frances E. Atkinson, was born in Tennessee, September 4, 1882. She was married to C. P. Houston and lives in Chicago at 6357 Normal Ave.

Edna, second daughter of C. M. and Frances E. Atkinson, was born in Tennessee, January 19, 1884. She was married to a Mr. Statzell and died in Lafayette July 26, 1917.



William Stinas, eldest son of Charles Millard and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County, November 3, 1885. He is not married.

Harrison Zemri, second son of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County, March 15, 1887. He is at home with his parents.

George Moffett, third son of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County, July 3, 1894. He is living at Indianapolis at same address as his parents.



ZIMRI and MARY JANE ATKINSON

Dale, fourth son of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County, June 6, 1896 and died May 24, 1898.

Ruth, third daughter of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County, November 6, 1897 and died May 29, 1898.

Frances, fourth daughter of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Warren County in June 1899. She was married to C. N. McConnell and lives at 3221 Kenwood Ave., Indianapolis.





Thomas Atkinson, youngest son of C. M. and Frances Atkinson, was born in Pine Village on November 22 and died August 13, 1904.

Alta, eldest daughter of Zimri and Mary Atkinson, was born on farm north of Winthrop, Indiana on April 11, 1860. She has taught music several years and now resides in Glendale, California, at 432 W. Maple St.

Thomas Atkinson, second son of Zimri and Mary Atkinson, was born near Winthrop, February 15, 1862, in Adams Township, in Warren County. He was united in marriage to Charity Zella McCord, daughter of James McCord, of Adams Township. They now reside on the McCord homestead where Thomas devotes his time to farming and feeding live stock for market. There was one son born to Thomas and Charity Atkinson.

James Zimri Atkinson, only son of Thomas and Charity Atkinson was born near Pine Village, on November 27, 1883, and died at Lafayette April 5, 1915. There were born to them two children, Ruth Bernice dan Thomas Frederick. Zimri graduated from the Pine Village High School and then attended Union Business College of Indianapolis, receiving honors from both institutions. After his marriage he worked on farm for a few years then moved to Attica where he built up a profitable business.

Zimri was a young man of sterling quality, straightforward in his busines and honest in his dealings with his fellow men. He was a member of the Rainesville F. and A. M., and Medina and Lafayette Lodge of Elks. His untimely death occurred in Lafayette following an automobile accident.

Thomas F., only son of Zimri and Myrtle White Atkinson, was born in Oxford, February 3, 1910, and died at St. Elizabeth Hospital August 29, 1926. His entire life was spent in or near Pine Village. He had completed his Junior year of High School in the spring previous to his death. He was studious in his school work and was planning to study law following the completion of his High School course.

Thomas was a member of the Pine Village Orchestra, and had taken unusual interest in his work. He was of a cheerful disposition and considerate of others which made



friends for him among the young and old. He had taken upon himself the responsibility of caring for his mother. He was buried in the Pine Village Cemetery.

Ruth Bernice, daughter of Zimri and Myrtle White Atkinson, was born near Oxford on September 23, 1908. She was united in marriage to Roy Eberly in April 1926. They are living on farm three miles west and one mile north of Pine Village.

Martin and Theodore, sons of Zimri and Mary Atkinson, were born in Warren County between the years of 1862 and 1868. They died when children.

Hattie, youngest child of Zimri and Mary Jane Atkinson was born on farm south east of Pine Village January 25, 1868. She was united in marriage to John McMullen on October 15, 1885. To this union was born two children, Harry and Lucy. Hattie was separated from John McMullen and later married Oscar P. Merrick, January 11, 1899. They moved to Cleveland, where she died in the early part of the year of 1900.

Harry, eldest child of Hattie and John McMullen, was born in Pine Village. He now resides in Gary, Indiana.

Lucy, daughter of Hattie and John McMullen, was born in Pine Village, Indiana. She now resides with her aunt Alta Atkinson, in Glendale, California, at 432 W. Maple St. She born in Pine Village, Indiana. She now resides with her aunt Alta Atkinson, in Glendale, California, at 432 W. Maple St. She was married to a Mr. Parks.

Frederick Atkinson, only son of Oscar and Hattie Merrick, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, December 21, 1899 and died in Pine Village March 26, 1902. His mother had died in his early infancy.

Charles Millard Atkinson and Elizabeth Moffitt were married in Oxford, Ind., and then went to the state of Tennessee, living in the cities of Chattanooga, Knoxville and Loudon. They returned to Indiana in 1885 and for twenty-three years lived in Adams Township, Warren Co. In 1908 they moved to Lafayette, where they lived for one year, and they then made their home in Hoopeston, Illinois until 1914. Since that time they have lived in Indianapolis, Indiana.



There were born to Edna and her husband, three children, Lee, who is married and has a son, William Lee, born at Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 10, 1924; Mildred, born in Pine Village, and Helen born at same place.

Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, Charles N. Jr., who was born at Indianapolis, June 16, 1919, and Robert Atkinson, born at same place on January 1, 1923.



### MARY ATKINSON WHINERY

Mary Atkinson, seventh child and second daughter of Thomas and Frances Head Atkinson, was born in Green County, Ohio, May 20, 1839. In October of 1848, she moved with her parents to Benton County. Her first winter in Indiana was spent on the Justus farm, southeast of Oxford. In 1848, her parents moved to the farm, on the south line of Benton County, which became the family home for many years. Here on January 29, 1858, she was married to Allen Hiatt Whinery, a native of Clinton County, Ohio, and later a resident of Grant County, Indiana, before coming to Benton County. Their home was made on the farm two and one half miles south of Oxford, which was part of the land purchased by Thomas Atkinson. Mary received at her marriage, as a dowry from her father, one thousand dollars, a like sum being given to each child of Thomas Atkinson.

This farm was the family homestead until the death of Allen Whinery on March 24, 1894, a period of thirty-six years in which the family circle was unbroken. In this home five children were born, Leora in 1859, Annie M. in 1861, Arthur in 1862, Adah Frances in 1863, and Stella in 1868.

In the second year of her widowhood, Mary Whinery moved to a cottage in Oxford, which remained her home until her death, February 25, 1910. She was a member of the Christian church at Oxford.

Leora Whinery, eldest child of Allen H. and Mary Atkinson Whinery, was born at the family homestead south of Oxford, March 24, 1859. She received her education at the district school near her home and at the Oxford Academy. She was a graduate of the Lafayette Business College. For sixteen years she was a teacher in the schools of Benton County. In the year 1892, she was married to Steven G. Thomas, of Olathe, Kansas. Their married life was spent on a farm seven miles south of Olathe. Here her children, J. Allen and Martha Mary, were born. Steven Thomas died October 19, 1907. Leora with her children continued to live on the farm until her death.





June 1, 1920. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, of Gardner, Kansas.

J. Allen Thomas, son of Steven G., and Leora Whinery Thomas, was born near Olathe, Kansas, July 5, 1899. He is joint owner, with his sister, of the family homestead which is his present home. He is unmarried.

Martha Mary Thomas, daughter of Steven G. and Leora Whinery Thomas, was born February 26, 1902. She is a graduate of the Gardner High School of the class of 1920. In 1924 she was married to Maurice Van Goethen, of Kansas City.

Robert Maurice, son of Maurice and Martha Mary Thomas Van Goethen, was born November 10, 1926.

Annie M. Whinery, second daughter of Allen H. and Mary Whinery, was born at the family home south of Oxford, January 13, 1861. She was a teacher in the public schools before her marriage to Amos J. Anderson in September 1884. They began their married life in the little brown house on the south end of her father's farm. Here their first child, Charles, was born September 20, 1885. In 1887, they moved to Oxford where their daughter, Winona, was born, February 23, 1887. Later they built a home in Oxford where they lived until 1910, when they bought the Whinery homestead, south of Oxford, and moved there. This was sold to David Heath and after a short residence in Oxford they moved to a farm near Bedford, Indiana. They also own property in Bedford, where they now live. Annie is a member of the Christian church.

Charles Egbert Anderson, son of Amos and Annie Whinery Anderson, was born near Oxford September 20, 1885, and in 1887 moved with his parents to Oxford where his early life was spent. In 1910, he was married to Hazel Kirke Meggison. They made their home in Oxford where he owned a black smith shop. While living in Oxford, their first child, June, was born in 1912. In 1914, they moved to Cochrane, Ontario, Canada, where he was employed by the government in the shops of the Canadian National Railroad. At this place of residence, his son Everett and daughter Jean, were born. In 1924, he moved to Iroquois Falls, Canada, where he was master mechanic of the pulp mills. He died October 5, 1925.



June, eldest daughter of Charles and Hazel Anderson, was born at Oxford, Indiana, June 15, 1912.

Everett, only son of Charles and Hazel Anderson, was born in Cochrane, Canada, 1915.

Jean, second daughter of Charles and Hazel Anderson, was born in Canada in 1917.

Winona Anderson, daughter of Amos J. and Annie Whinery Anderson, was born in Oxford, February 23, 1887. She was a graduate of the Oxford High School of the class of 1905. She made her home with her parents until her marriage to Harry Jefferson, December 13, 1910. Her married life was spent in the vicinity of Oxford.

Duane Willard Jefferson, son of Harry and Winona Anderson Jefferson, was born at Oxford, Indiana, October 28, 1913. For several years, he has lived with his grandparents at Bedford, Indiana.

Arthur Whinery, only son of Allen H. and Mary Whinery, was born at the farm south of Oxford, May 29, 1862. His entire life was spent on the farm until his health failed and he made his home with his sisters in Oxford. In May 1899, he made a trip through the West. After a short stay at Monte Vista, Colorado, he returned to Olathe, Kansas. It was at this place that his death occurred June 23, 1899. He was unmarried.

Adah Frances Whinery, third daughter of Allen H. and Mary Whinery, was born November 17, 1863. She attended Oxford Academy and for two years, 1885-'87, was a student at Purdue University. Later she attended the Valparaiso Normal School. She was married to William E. White and lived on the White homestead, one and one half miles west of Oxford. Later they moved to Oxford where William White was engaged in the grain business, and Adah continued her work as a teacher in the Oxford school. She received some recognition as a writer of short stories which were published in some of the foremost magazines. She also wrote several serial stories and produced some paintings of considerable value. In 1899, in failing health, she went to Monte Vista, Colorado, where with her husband she lived until her death, March 21, 1903. There were no children. Adah and her husband were members



of the Presbyterian church. William E. White, having remarried, now lives in Monte Vista.

Stella Whinery, youngest daughter of Allen H. and Mary Atkinson Whinery, was born July 15, 1868 at the Whinery farm south of Oxford. On September 12, 1895, she was married to John Thomas Lackey, of Noblesville, Indiana. Their married life has been spent in Oxford, where, for a number of years, John Lackey was proprietor of a blacksmith and carriage repair shop. In 1910, they bought a farm one half mile west of Oxford, which he now operates, while they yet make their home in Oxford. Two children were born to this union, Edith Mary and an infant daughter who died September 10, 1897. They are members of the Christian church at Oxford.

Edith Mary Lackey, daughter of John and Stella Whinery Lackey, was born May 25, 1902. She was graduated from the Oxford High School in 1920, and from the Oxford College for Women, Oxford, Ohio, in 1924. She later taught for two years in the Oxford High School, and for one year in the high school at Marblehead, Mass.



### **SARAH ELIZABETH ATKINSON MURPHY**

Sarah Elizabeth Atkinson, daughter of Thomas and Frances Atkinson, was born September 8, 1841, in Green County, Ohio. She was married to Samuel Murphy, of Defiance, Ohio, July 31, 1860.

Samuel Murphy was a carpenter and built the little "brown house" near the home of Thomas Atkinson. This was their first home and here their first children, Clayton and Clara Elizabeth were born.

Later the family moved to a farm three and one half miles north west of Oxford, where the children grew to maturity. In 1890, they moved to a farm one mile south of Ambia, where she lived until after the death of her husband. She then moved to Ambia where the remainder of her years were spent.

She died December 20, 1917, at Ambia. She was a member of the Christian church at that place.

Clayton Ward Murphy, son of Samuel and Sarah, was born in Benton County, May 5, 1861. He was united in marriage to Hulda Sawyer, of Waterville, Washington, December 17, 1891. Their home is in Couldesac, Idaho, where they are farming. Two children have been born to this home.

Eva Elizabeth, was born at Waterville, Washington, on January 7, 1893. She was united in marriage to Vellie L. Wyman, October 18, 1916, at Lewiston, Idaho. They are living on a farm.

Stephans, second child born to Clayton and Hulda Murphy, was born at Waterville on January 20, 1894. He served with the 91st Division in the World War, entering Camp Lewis Washington October 12, 1917, and returning from France, May 5, 1919. He was married to Vera V. Crow, June 25, 1919, at Lewiston, Idaho. They are now engaged in farming. Four children have been born to this union.

Maxine Evelyn, born April 19, 1920.

Victor Lee, born November 24, 1921.

Clayton James, born September 20, 1923.

Stephan Wayne, born July 12, 1925.

Clara Elizabeth Murphy, eldest daughter of Samuel and





Sarah Murphy, was born in Benton County, May 17, 1864. She was married to Scott Brown on March 1, 1882, and lived a number of years on farm near Boswell, Indiana, where their three children were born. Clara Brown and her husband now live on farm near Blackwell, Oklahoma.

Jessie Brown, oldest daughter of Scott and Clara Brown, was born near Boswell, Indiana, December 13, 1882. She was married to Ross Kelly, May 8, 1901. They have an adopted daughter, Edith Claire, who was born May 12, 1919. Previous to two years ago they were on farm but now Ross Kelly is engaged in the furniture business at Blackwell, Oklahoma. Their home is at 607 East Blackwell.

Bessie Brown, twin daughter of Scott and Clara Brown was born near Boswell December 13, 1882, and departed from this life on May 1, 1912. On December 25, 1903, she was married to Roy German and in following March moved to Oklahoma. There they lived one year when they returned to Indiana and made their home there for three years. During the year of 1907, they moved to Nottawa, Texas, which was their home until her death. A daughter, Louis Mildred was born to them on April 28 only to live a short time.

Bessie German was a member of the Christian church at Nottawa, and a loyal helper in the Sunday School of that church. She had a wonderful love for humanity and gave to it her ardent support. To know her was to love her.

Chester Orth Brown, son of Scott and Clara Brown, was born near Boswell, Indiana, May 27, 1886. He was united in bond of marriage to Laura Baucher in the year of 1909. They now reside on farm near Keensburg, Colorado. To them have been born three children.

Cheryl Selma, born March 1, 1910.

Victor Brown, was born January 3, 1914.

Alfred was born February 20, 1918.

Flora Ann Blaylock, daughter of Samuel and Sarah E. Murphy, was born in Benton County, January 12, 1869. She was united in marriage to Eli Blaylock, March 12, 1890. Her death occurred February 27, 1909. She and Eli have one son.



Clayton Franklin, son of Eli and Flora A. Blaylock, was born near Boswell, March 14, 1892. Now living on farm north of Boswell.

Effie Ellen, daughter of Samuel and Sarah E. Murphy, was born in Benton County, September 29, 1871. She was married to Frank Roberts on June 16, 1891, at Ambia. They lived in Indiana until 1902, when they moved to Blackwell, Oklahoma, where Frank Roberts, who was a mason, helped construct the first brick buildings in that city. They moved from that city to a farm near Fayetteville where they now reside. Effie Ellen Roberts is an ordained minister of Spiritualism.

Robert Lloyd, son of Frank and Effie Ellen Murphy, was born in Oxford, in the home where Thomas and Frances Atkinson had lived, April 25, 1892. He was married to Bernice Steele, of Blackwell, Oklahoma, September 6, 1917. Lloyd is in the employ of the Roxana Oil Company and lives at De Noya, Oklahoma.

Ward Murphy, son of Effie and Frank Roberts, was born at Ambia, Indiana, June 24, 1894. He answered the call of his country in the world War and served with the 65th Artillery from California, from December 1917, to March 1919. He was wounded twice. He is at present a mechanic.

Leona Maybelle, only daughter of Frank and Effie Roberts, was born at Ambia, Indiana, April 17, 1896. She was married to C. O. Beard, of Genda Springs, Kansas, where her parents made their home for about two years. While on a visit to her parents at Fayetteville in the winter of 1924, "Jack" Beard was taken ill and died February 12. Two sons had been born to them, Turley Duane, born May 4, 1913, at Genda Springs and Robert M., born at Blackwell, Oklahoma, June 27, 1915. Leona was married to W. E. Ivey, a World War veteran, on September 29, 1925. Their home is in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Arthur Owen, son of Frank and Effie Roberts, was born at Blackwell, Oklahoma, May 13, 1907. He is living with his parents near Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Willis Edwards, son of Samuel and Sarah E. Murphy, was born in Benton County, November 29, 1873. He was mar-



ried to Ellen Daily on December 25, 1900. To them has been born one child, Homer Bart, born March 24, 1901

Otis Atkinson Murphy, son of Samuel and Sarah Murphy, was born in Benton County, July 16, 1878. He was united in marriage to Bird King, on June 4, 1898. Three children have been born to them. Their home was on farm near Indianapolis, Indiana, Rural Route G., Box 131. His home is now at 1626 E. Creighton St., Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Fred Ovid Warner, son of Otis and Bird Murphy, was born October 1900. He was married to Nellie Charlton, at Hoopeston, Illinois December 25, 1918. Two children have been born to them, Harold, October 18, 1920, and Anetta on November 11, 1925. He is at this time a postal clerk at Hoopeston, Illinois.

Vera, daughter of Otis and Bird Murphy, was born at Ambia, February 6, 1902. She was united in marriage to Guy Moore, at Indianapolis, June 20, 1920. Two children have been born to this union at their home in New Palestine, Indiana, Louise on January 20, 1922, and Eva, born February 3, 1924. Guy is a barber at New Palesine.

Dale, youngest son of Otis and Bird Murphy, was born at Ambia, on February 11, 1913, and died January 6, 1919.



### **ELINOR ATKINSON PIERCE**

Elinor Atkinson, daughter of Thomas and Frances Atkinson, was born in Green county, near Xenia, June 3, 1844. When four years of age she moved with her parents to the farm purchased by her father located about two and one half miles south of Oxford, near the center of section 36. Here she grew to womanhood securing her education at the Boynton or Runner School house.

On the 16th of November, 1863, she was united in marriage to Thomas Jefferson Pierce. They began housekeeping in a little red house on the east side of the road just opposite the entrance of the lane which led to her home. This house was located just south of the little oak grove on the old Whinery Farm, now owned by Ethel Steele. It was in this house that Thomas Atkinson started several of his children upon their married career.

After a short time Elinor moved to Monrovia with her husband where he was engaged in the wool spinning business. About two years was spent at Monrovia, Ind., when they purchased the McComb farm which was located about one quarter mile east of where they began housekeeping. It was at this farm that the two boys were born, Harry E., April 29, 1868, and Charles Evan, Sept., 7, 1877. Leaving this farm for a year to live at Atkinson station, they returned. A few years later the McComb farm was sold and another bought south and east of Pine Village, where they spent twelve years. After disposing of this farm Jefferson and Elinor spent two or three years in Oxford, when they then bought property in Franklin County, Illinois. This place was their home for twelve years when they returned to Oxford to enjoy the evening of their long companionship. In the later years of his life, Jefferson required much attention due to the infirmities of age. His death occurred on the 3rd of October, 1912. The close of Elinor's life came on June 6, 1921.

Harry E. Pierce, oldest son of Jefferson and Elinor Pierce was born two and one half miles south of Oxford, April 29, 1868. He was united in marriage to Josephine Kelley, February





1, 1896. They began their married life one and one half miles south of Oxford and later moved to a farm on the Oxford and Pine Village road about one half mile south of the Benton-Warren county line. Here he has given his attention to farming, feed and rearing of live stock. He owns a part of the original Thomas Atkinson homestead and the house located on the farm contains some of the frame timbers which Thomas hauled from Coal Creek in Montgomery County. Six children have been born to Harry and Josephine Pierce.

Ruth, born October 30, 1896.

Irene, born February 10, 1899. She was married to Herman Jones, May 12, 1923. To them have been born three children. They are now living on a farm south of the Village.

Janette Virginia, born July 4, 1924.

Joan, born September 30, 1925.

Joyce Irene, born February 28, 1927.

Rita, daughter of Harry and Josephine Pierce, born May 5, 1900, died Feb. 18, 1914.

Harry, son of Harry and Josephine Pierce, born March 28, 1902.

Mary, born September 6, 1905 and died 23 months later.

Paul, born July 28, 1909.

Charles Evan Pierce, youngest son of Thomas J. and Elinor Pierce, was born south of Oxford, September 7, 1877. He was united in marriage to Sadie Kelley January 29, 1902, in Ewing, Illinois. They went on a farm after their marriage and then later he was engaged in hardware business. Their home now is in Jeffersonville, 414 Brown Avenue, Indiana. The children born to Charles and Sadie Pierce are:

Thomas Kelley, born February 19, 1904.

Frances Grace, born October 4, 1908.

Fred Evan, born August 8, 1912.



### MARTIN ATKINSON

Martin Atkinson, tenth child of Thomas and Frances Atkinson, was a native of Green County, Ohio, being born February 28, 1847, and died at his sister's home, Susannah Lindsey, November 5, 1888. When a little more than a year old he moved with his parents to Oak Grove Township where he grew to manhood, securing his education at the Boynton School. In the year of 1868 he was married to Isabelle Wattles who lived a few miles south and west of Oxford. They moved on the farm about one half mile west of the Thomas Atkinson home which was bought by Martin and was his home to the end of



his life. As his inclinations were similar to his father's he gave his attention to farming and the raising of live stock. One child was born to Martin and Isabelle Atkinson.

Julian Atkinson, only son of Martin and Isabelle Atkinson, was born southwest of Oxford on July 4, 1869. Practically his entire life has been spent on his father's farm. However a few years was spent with his mother in Oxford where he attended the public school. He was living with his mother at the time of his marriage to Lena Cook, daughter of August



Cook, of Oxford, August 19, 1890. Four children were born to this home. Lena died during the year of 1910.

Curtis and Clint, twins of Julian and Lena Atkinson, were born south of Oxford, May 5, 1892. Clint died at about the age of two months. Curtis was united in marriage to Ethel Sanders on June 5, 1918 and since that time has been engaged in farming. Curtis received his education in the Oxford Schools. They are on a farm near Williamsport, Indiana.

Mable, the only daughter of Julian and Lena Atkinson, was born near Oxford on the farm June 25, 1895. She attended the Oxford school and was engaged in school teaching until her marriage to Bernard Hendricks in March 1926. They are living on a farm near Ellingson, South Dakota.

Jay, the youngest son of Julian and Lena Atkinson, was born on his father's farm near Oxford, June 29, 1901. After attending the Oxford school, from which he graduated, he graduated from Purdue University with the class of 1925. He is now engaged in the school teaching profession.



### **MATILDA JANE ATKINSON WATTLES**

Matilda Jane Atkinson, the fifth daughter, was born February 16, 1850 at the family home south of Oxford, Indiana. Her childhood was spent very much as that of other children of the time. She lived much out of doors and enjoyed most the out of door work of the farm.

She was always a strong, active girl. She boasted of being able to climb farther and run faster than anyone else in school—the boys being no exception.

Her mother taught her at an early age how to manage a house. While still too young to go to school she learned to knit on chicken quills while she sat in the end of the cradle rocking her little sister, Susie, who was then a baby.

She went to school in the one room country school house with the other children of the community. She wore heavy flannel dresses and petticoats with low leather shoes in the winter. The snow was often so deep that she like other children came to school day after day with her skirts frozen and her shoes full of snow. Fortunately they were hearty enough to endure such exposure. Often there was a summer term of school lasting through the month of August. In the old fashioned spelling matches that held such an important part in the education of the children of those days, she was usually able to excell.

She remembered well the Civil War and the rallies held for the purpose of enlisting volunteers. She remembered too the end of the war and the return of some of the prisoners. With those memories was connected the memory of her father who in the evenings, holding a candle in one hand, read aloud to them about the war from the Chicago Tribune.

At the age of seventeen, on December 24, 1867, she married Jerome B. Wattles. They lived two years on her father's farm after which time they bought and moved to a farm three miles south of Fowler, on the prairie. Their first little house had but two rooms. She was always busy working inside and outside of the house with equal proficiency. This was in the early days of the country when the houses were miles apart





and the roads were few and almost impassable most of the time.

Their first daughter, Vivian, was born July 9, 1872, and the other daughter, Lois or Loy, was born May 23, 1878.

She was ever of service to those in the community for miles around. She could always find time to attend at any home in time of sickness or death. She nursed the sick, cared for the children, often in her own home, and helped with the housework. During her life on the farm she attended the mothers of forty-one babies at the birth of the children—usually alone. Of these, only one baby died at birth. She bravely nursed many patients through dangerous contagious diseases and was cautious enough to protect always her family from contagion.

She was a most efficient manager, wife and mother. Her home was always open to much company and she usually had extra farm help and possibly a school teacher to board, room, and care for. She was a hard worker—always immaculate about her house and herself. Her family were always well cared for. She made by hand almost everything her family wore and maintained a home that was practically self-sufficient.

In 1892, she and her husband united with the Christian church under the pastorate of Rev. Lee Tinsley, who stayed at her home and conducted services in the little school house on the farm. She was baptised in the fish pond on the farm. This gave her a new interest and she ever lived a conscientious Christian life. During the rest of her life she gave much of her time and efforts to the work of her church.

In 1903, she moved from the farm to a home in Oxford where she lived the rest of her life. She was active in community and church life. She was president of the Ladies Aid at Oxford for twenty-five years and retired only a few months before her death. She was a leader of strong qualities and used these talents for the improvement of her community and for the comfort and happiness of others. She was always young in her ideas, in her abilities and ambitions. She was progressive and possessed an unusual ability of adjusting herself to any situation.

After the death of Loy, in 1916, she became a mother to her grand-daughter, Helen Jane, who made her home with her



grandparents. For several years too the son-in-law made her home his home. She filled her new place with characteristic thoroughness and proficiency. She was to the girl not a grandmother but truly a mother.

Her home was a home at any time to her widowed sisters and to all her nieces and nephews and friends. She was to them all a good counsellor and a good friend.

She lived to see all of her brothers and four of her sisters preceed her in death. She was most active up until a few weeks before her death which occurred March 5, 1927 at her home.

Vivian Wattles was born July 9, 1872 on the farm three miles south of Fowler, Indiana. She lived at home until her marriage to John Benedict on October 8, 1890.

They became the parents of two children—Forest, who was born January 18, 1891 and Fall, who was born October 29, 1893.

They live in Denver, Colorado, having moved to that state in 1895. They spent several years in some of the beautiful little Colorado mining towns and 13 years on a ranch in one of the most picturesque parts of the state—seventy miles west of Denver.

Fall makes his home with his parents.

Forest Benedict, was born January 18, 1891. She with her parents moved to Colorado in 1895.

On March 25, 1912, she married Frank Delaney. Two children were born to them—Dale B., on April 18, 1913 and Fawn on March 31, 1919.

She and her family live in Denver.

Loy Wattles was born on her father's farm three miles south of Fowler, Indiana, on May 23, 1878. She went to school in a little school house on the farm and lived at home until her marriage.

She was married on December 1899 to George Walter McClelland. With one exception of two years spent on a farm west of Fowler she lived on or near where she was born during her entire married life.



Three children were born to them. Two died in infancy—a son born July 30, 1903 and a daughter, Lois Bell, born May 11, 1911. The third, Helen Jane, was born March 11, 1907

Loy died on May 4, 1916.

Helen Jane McClelland was born March 11, 1907 and was married to Wesley Wooley, September 18, 1927.



### SUSANNAH ATKINSON LINDSEY

Susannah, the youngest child and sixth daughter of Thomas and Frances Head Atkinson, was born at the family home three miles south of Oxford on May 12, 1854. Here her childhood was also spent with her sister Jane and brother Martin, the others having homes of their own or only being in their parent's home intermittently. She and her sister Jane played with corn husk dolls making believe the silks were long hair. They would follow their mother when she was in the garden picking beans, gathering bean leaves to stick on their dresses, calling them patches. When quite small she attended the spelling schools held in the Boynton school. Spelling schools were a popular diversion of the time and her brother Martin, a speller of note. Each family who attended brought a candle, thus lighting the room. At this particular gathering, Martin spelled down three schools. The teacher seated him on the desk, pronounced words for him to spell until he could not speak aloud, but he did not miss a word.

When old enough, she too attended the Boynton school, with Frank, Elbert, Mary, Jane and Isabelle Stembel, the Runners and others. Quite often she and her sister would cut across the field to their home. Between the school and their home was a slough, but by stepping on the tufts of buffalo grass, they could cross safely. Once, however, when on their way home, Jane in the lead said "Step where I step Susie, step where I step," and just then she made a mistep and went knee deep in the mud. Scrambling to a safe bunch of grass she quickly turned to her sister and said, "Don't step where I did, Susie, don't step where I did."

During the Civil war, on account of shortage of help, Susie, Jane and Mart helped their father husk shock corn, with little wooden pegs he made for them.

Many times she had heard her father tell of his early life in Ohio and of helping slaves escape. During the day the abolitionists would hide the slaves and aid them to reach another friendly home during the night.





During the war, her father sold hogs for ten and eleven cents per pound, a remarkable price for those times. Martin plowed corn with one horse (Jule) and a single shovel plow, when he was so small Jane and Susie could not see him and at meal times had to go through the corn until they found him. They had three acres of corn which made a yield of 100 bushels per acre, winning prizes at the Pine Village Fair.

In the afternoon, Susie and Jane often took their home made dolls out in the field where they played in the shade of their brother Isaac's big umbrella. Among their treasures were the willow whistles made for them by Martin. One New Years there came a heavy snow, later getting extremely cold. When evening came their brother Joe came to the school and took Jane, Susie and Mart to his home near by. Later taking Martin home but keeping the girls all night. The next morning their father came for them and carried Susie home.

Once when her father was driving cattle, one contrary steer kept turning back. Riding up beside the steer, he jumped from his pony to the steer's back and grabbing it's horns rode it where it belonged.

When she was quite small a circus came to Oxford and of course, never having attended a circus, she wanted to go, so her father said, "Thee go up to Robert's and tell him if he goes, Thee can go too." Straightway she went to Robert's and he took all his own children and Susie to the show.

Later she was the proud owner of a sorrel riding horse, called Buck. Martin had a horse also, a sorrel, called Millie Frances. Always making rhymes he said this,

Little Buck's a first rate horse,  
He holds his head and prances,  
He can dance a first rate jig  
But so can Millie Frances.

When Susie was twelve year's old she realized her first sorrow, for it was then that her sister Jane became the wife of Jerome Wattles, leaving her alone at home. The next year, when thirteen, she helped her father milk eleven cows and helped her mother make cheese. They always enjoyed taking the pressed cheese from the hoop and turning it over for another thirty six hours pressing before they were ready for market.



These cheese weighed ten and twelve pounds and they made three per week. Some of the cheese, butter and eggs were sold to Mr. Shidler, who kept the hotel where the Ohio House now stands.

Once when Jerome came to her father's for hay, she decided to go spend the night with her sister on the prairie northwest of Oxford, and return the next day when he came for more hay. When about to cross Mud Pine, Jerome told her to hold to the boom pole, that he would have all he could do to manage the horses. They started across, the horses lunged, and Susie fell into the icy creek. When she reached her sister's home her clother were frozen stiff, but she did not suffer any ill effects from the ducking.

On November 16, 1871, she was married to Cephas Lindsey, a veteran of the Indian wars. They immediately purchased the home farm, where her children were born. Her parents lived with them seven years, later moving to Oxford. In the spring of 1896, having sold their farm to her sister, Eleanor Atkinson Pierce, they purchased a farm of 220 acres, which joined the farm of her son Mills, on Kickapoo Creek in Warren County, northeast of Attica. The Kickapoo Indian's burying ground was located on this farm. In August 1897, Mr. Lindsey passed away. He was born July 26, 1848 and died August 9, 1897, a victim of cancer. He had enlisted in the regular army in '66 and served until '70.

About 1904 she traded her farm for the Hardware Store of Hartz Bros., of Williamsport, but they refused to take seventeen acres of this land on which the Indian burying ground was located because it was a gravel hill and they thought it worthless. A few years later Mrs. Lindsey disposed of this seventeen acres for \$300.00 per acre to the Indiana Gravel Co.

In 1905 the Williamsport property was exchanged for the West Side Livery Stable and equipment and a farm in Wea Township, near West Point, Ind. After the marriage of her second son, Elbert, in January 1906, Mrs. Lindsey spent much of her time for several years as a practical nurse, in the homes of Prof. Geo. Christie, of Purdue, Henry Wallace, William Penrod and many other patients of Dr. Moffitt.



In 1911 she and her sons, Elbert and Frank, disposed of their Tippecanoe County interests to H. Clay Harris, of Morocco, for a 1200 acre plantation between Erwin and Leota Landing, Mississippi in the Yazoo Valley. In March 1912, Mrs. Lindsey left Mississippi via New Orleans, for a sightseeing trip and visit in California where she spent six months, returning to Mississippi in September. Selling this plantation, they came two hundred miles north to West Point, Miss., where they became interested in an elevator, bank and farming land. Three years later Mrs. Lindsey converted her property to cash, but went to Chester Co., Pennsylvania, where her sons, Elbert and Frank became interested in dairying.

Since the death of Elbert in May 1924, she divides her time between her sons, Mills, of Lafayette, and Frank, of Lincoln University, Penn., and her granddaughters Claire Stembel and Floy Rhode, and is greatly pleased to help care for the little great-granddaughter, Beverly Sue Rhode, in the home of the latter. Mrs. Lindsey is proud of the fact that in September 1926, she attended the Centennial, while in June 1876, her father Thomas Atkinson visited Philadelphia on a like visit.

Thomas Mills Lindsey, oldest son of Cephas and Susannah Atkinson Lindsey, was born May 28, 1872, at the home three miles south of Oxford, in the old home of his grandparents, which stood some distance west and south of where the house now stands. He attended the Boynton school and spent his childhood as most boys do, hunting, trapping, doing chores for his parents, and later learning to farm. Much time was spent with Julian Atkinson and his big black shepherd dog, Curly, their constant companion. On one hunting expedition they located Curly, who was loudly barking in a crib across the road from Uncle Joe's house. The dog had six skunks treed, which the boys helped him kill. When Mills reached home with his trophies, Jerome Wattles and family were there. Not being presentable to guests, Mr. Lindsey took his son to the wood shed where he was thoroughly renovated before entering the house.

In 1889 he spent eight months at his Aunt Jane's home, where he worked as a farm hand. At this time Mr. Wattles owned an Indian pony which Ben Nobb decided to break. He





rode the pony in the goose pond, on Jerome's farm, two hours and when he rode out on solid ground it bucked him off:

Mills Lindsey was married to Frances Davis, September 4, 1890. They resided with his parents a year. In 1891 they moved to a small place across the road from the home of Frank Atkinson Sr., and farmed a part of Frank's land. In March 1895, he moved his family to Warren Co., where he had purchased a small farm northeast of Attica on the Independence Gravel. Selling this farm to John T. Handy in 1902, the next year was spent on the farm of Richard Steadman, across the road. In 1904, the family moved to the farm purchased of Benjamin Dunkelbarger, in Fountain Co. After three years here, the farm was rented to a Virginian family named Thayer and Mills moved to Lafayette, where the oldest daughter was attending Lafayette Business College. Here he was employed by Chas. Terry, contractor, for a time, and later was with his brothers in the West Lafayette Livery.

In the spring of 1909, he traded his farm to Charles and John Irvin, of Oxford, for a residence, Livery stable and stock in Oxford. Disposing of this he again took up farming on the old Heath home south of Templeton in February 1912. Four years were spent there and nine years on the old Lindsey home, owned by Mrs. David S. Heath, and in February 1925 they moved to their own farm purchased of Mr. Galt, on McCarthy Lane, east of Lafayette, where they now reside.

Frances Ethel Lindsey, eldest child of Thomas Mills and Frances Davis Lindsey, was born in the home of her paternal grandparents on April 19, 1891. She attended Warren and Fountain Co. grammar schools and Lafayette Business College. She makes her home with her parents at Lafayette, where she is employed at Loeb & Hene, Dept. Store.

Claire Marie Lindsey, second child of Thomas Mills and Frances Davis Lindsey, was born October 9, 1894, just south of Oxford in the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Granlund. Attended grade schools of Warren and Fountain Co., graduating in 1908 from Morton Grade school of West Lafayette. Attended High School in West Lafayette, during freshman year, and following three years in Oxford, graduating with O. H. S. Class of 1912. Married E. Harris Stembel,





son of Bert Stenbel, February 28, 1914, and resided in Otterbein until July 1919. Have since resided in Oxford.

Mabel Floy Lindsey, third child of Thomas Mills and Frances Davis Lindsey, was born on February 2, 1900, in Warren County, Ind. Attended grade schools in Fountain, Tippecanoe and Benton Co., graduating in 1914 from Oxford school. Attended High School in Otterbein. Married Forrest Reed Rhode, March 15, 1922. They reside on Colvert farm north of Oxford.

Richard Merrill and Robert Lee Rhode, twin boys born to Forrest and Floy Lindsey Rhode, March 26, 1923, at her parents home. Robert Lee died April 10, 1923, Richard Merrill died May 8, 1926.

Beverly Sue Rhode, born to Forrest and Floy Lindsey Rhode, June 24, 1927 at Home Hospital, Lafayette.

Opal Fern Lindsey, fourth child of Thomas Mills and Frances Davis Lindsey, was born June 22, 1903, in Warren Co., Ind. Attended grade and High School of Oak Grove Township, Benton County. She with her sister and brother, for a time attended the Boynton or Runner school which their father and grandmother had also attended. She graduated from O. H. S., with Class of 1921. She attended Butler University, of Indianapolis, graduating in June 1925. She resides with her parents in Lafayette.

Harold Mills Lindsey, fifth child and only son of Thomas Mills and Frances Davis Lindsey, was born March 6, 1908, in West Lafayette. He attended grade school and High School in Oak Grove and Oxford, but graduated in 1926 from West Lafayette High School. Also attended Lafayette Business College and has a position with the First Merchants National Bank of Lafayette.

**Note:** The business interests and activities of Mrs. Susannah Atkinson Lindsey and her two sons, Elbert and Frank were the same or closely associated until their removal to Pennsylvania in 1921. It is therefore difficult to speak of their activities separately, so "they" in either of the three life stories means Mrs. Lindsey and sons.



Joseph Elbert Lindsey, second son of Cephas and Susannah Atkinson Lindsey, was born September 30, 1878, at the family home south of Oxford where he grew to young manhood. He attended the Boynton school and the Old Academy. Following the death of his father in 1897 he became the head of the home and with his brother Frank assumed the responsibilities of his mother's farm in Warren Co. With the exception of two seasons in the harvest fields of South Dakota, when about twenty-three years of age, his entire time, until his marriage, was devoted to his mother's interests. They conducted a Hardware Store in Williamsport, Ind., a few years, then the West Side Livery Stable, in West Lafayette.

On January 14, 1906, he married Laura Marlowe, of Attica. A few years were again spent on the farm near West Point, Ind., before moving to the Mississippi plantation, in Washington Co., near Leota Landing. Here their daily experiences were entirely new and varied, and they as northern grain growers and stock raisers faced many problems.

The principal crop was cotton, but the boll weevil had begun to be a menace, therefore turning the thoughts of the progressive planter to the cultivation of something besides cotton. Corn had never been grown extensively, because of the weevil it could not be husked. Oats had never been grown at all. Pure-bred stock in that locality were a minus quantity, also. For labor they had to depend on the negroes and at their first attempt to drive one of their mule teams, learned one of the reasons why the negro was an absolute necessity. The teams about half-harnassed were driven in tandem, one line on one of the lead mules. The negro driver would yell, "Haw. Gee. G'wan yo' ole mu' yo'," and contrary to any one's expectations was able to drive them anywhere.

Taking an invoice of their problems and possibilities they decided to try for one season at least, the cultivation of corn and oats, and also to start a herd of pure-bred Black Angus cattle. The yield of grain was very satisfactory, the corn being "jerked" leaving the husks on until they were ready to feed it. Their neighbors began to grow grain also and in 1913, sufficient acreage of oats were being grown there, Lindsey brothers decided it would be profitable to introduce a threshing machine



and did so. A complete threshing equipment was purchased of Alex Meredith, of Warren County, Indiana, in January 1913, by them and shipped to Mississippi. At harvest time residents of the community came miles to view that wonder of wonders to a cotton planter, a threshing machine in operation.

Aside from some trouble with ticks and loss through alligators taking the calves, they soon developed a splendid herd of Black Angus cattle. Here let me say that contrary to the statements of writers supposed to be familiar with the habits of alligators, they will and do eat pigs, calves and such should they by chance wander too near the lakes and bayous inhabited by the reptiles. While seemingly asleep it lays in wait and when their victim wanders close, swings it's huge tail and breaks the legs of it's victim. To overcome this, tight fences were put in around the lakes.

While in the middle of the nineteenth century, their grandfather was a pioneer grain grower and stock raiser of Indiana, they were accorded a like distinction in West Central Mississippi, where they were called "Cap'n Dick" and "Corn-tassel." The cultivation of their cotton was left to the negroes of whom there were some sixty on the plantation. Black Bill cared for the apiary of two hundred hives, a profitable occupation, which one year made a yield of \$1,800.00 worth of extracted honey, which was shipped in barrels to New Orleans.

After the sale of this property, they took up residence in West Point, Mississippi, where they were interested in an elevator, bank and land, later taking up residence in Chester Co., Pennsylvania, near the birthplace of their grandfather in York Co. Elbert owned a dairy farm, but his health having failed, he and his wife made their home with his brother Frank and family, near Oxford, Pennsylvania, where he suddenly died on the evening of May 3, 1924, and was buried beside his father in Justice Cemetery at Oxford, Indiana, May 6, 1924.

Frank Orth Lindsey, the third son and youngest child of Cephas and Susannah Atkinson Lindsey, was born January 2, 1882 at the family home, three miles south of Oxford, now owned by Harry Pierce.



He attended the Boynton school and the Academy and after his parents moved to Warren County was for a time a student in Wabash College, at Crawfordsville.

After his father's death he assisted his brother in the care of his mother's farm and was always associated with them in their various activities until 1921, when he purchased a dairy farm in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and another near Lebanon, Ohio. The latter farm he recently traded to a Mr. Todd, of Delphi, for 160 acres of land near that place in Carrol County, Indiana.

He was married to Miss Lenora Stone, of Leota Landing, Mississippi on April 13, 1918, at his brother's home in West Point, Miss. They have two children.

With his family he lives near Oxford, Penn., on the dairy farm which he owns and operates, and is well known as a breeder of pure-bred O. I. C. hogs.

Frances Lenora Lindsey, oldest child of Frank Orth and Lenora Stone Lindsey, was born February 26, 1919 in West Point, Miss.

Richard Stone Lindsey, second child of Frank Orth and Lenora Stone Lindsey, was born June 22, 1924 in Chester County, Pennsylvania.





### FROM THE ABSENT ONE

And David longed, and said, "Oh that one would give me to drink of the well which is in Bethlehem at the gate."

And so we all in the heat of life's battles look back and long to drink again from those wells whence bubbled the pleasure draughts of our childhood. And do we not drink them in our memory? I am with you in spirit at this moment, and from every Atkinson household represented here I have stored some special recollection of childish joy.

Did any of you ever go with grandmother in the early morning to pick up peaches under the trees which grew so thickly in the back yard at the old homestead? And can you remember the honey in the long stemmed glass dish? And who of you held bags in the old orchard for grandfather to fill with winesaps and sheepnoses and heard him sing "Perry's Victory" and "Brotherhood of Man?"

Do you recall that Uncle Robert had the first grape vines and pear trees grown in that neighborhood? What delight it was to play with Mary under the vines from which we never plucked a bunch unbidden, and what a crowning glory to the dinner were Aunt Nancy's pear preserves. I have no memory of the first household except Aunt Catherine's funeral.

At aunt Phoebe's the garden with its rows of flowers on either side the walk, and the hickory nuts in the grove were a never-failing delight enjoyed in company with Frances and Lucy. In the house Caroline turned the big wheel to twist the cuts of factory wool and wrought miracles of stars and stripes in her knitted mittens. Laura, you were the little girl then and it was only after Kansas winds and droughts and kindred cares and losses had their way with us that our cousinship developed into that friendship which is now one of the joys of my life.

The wonder at Uncle Cephas' was the twin babies, the first I ever saw, but only second to them were the antlered deer and spotted fawns in the park.

Sadie Gephart, are you here? Your father's home re-



calls the Indian corn crib and the long limbed Lynn tree on which we used to swing after school on summer evenings until your mother called, "Ladies, you and Frank bring home the cows," or my mother crossed the road and called from her side, "Children, supper is ready. Come home now." Oh, Mother! Mother! When the evening of my life draws near will you stand beside my father at the golden gate and call again, "Come Home" to the eternal mansions which would need no more than your patience, innocence and tenderness to make it heaven for those you loved. Over my memory of your home rises no cloud but the memory of my own failures, and those you forgave so freely that I try to forget them also in emulation of one in whom the heart of her husband safely trusted, and whose children rise up and call her blessed. May the faith of those remaining so persevere that nought will mar the peace of our final reunion.

Uncle Zimri had the first carriage in the family, and although I do not remember ever riding in it I recall vividly the exquisite pleasure of sitting in it as it stood in the yard, and playing I was queen in my chariot, a majesty with which Alta sometimes interfered with by transferring the paper crown to her own head.

Aunt Lizzie, do you remember when you first moved to the prairie and my father brought his family to spend the night? He and Uncle Samuel went to the pond before daylight and shot wild ducks which you cooked for breakfast. I think no feast could be prepared now which would be so wonderful, though I suspect Atkinson cooks present today have done their prettiest to excel any other picnic dinner ever spread.

Aunt Ell had the only upstairs in which it was ever my privilege to play at will, and at her house I saw the first geese picked and held the neck of the old gander when he made troublesome and emphatic objections to parting with his feathers.

Uncle Martin and his pretty wife, of whose brown curls I was wickedly covetous always gave me kindest welcome, and Aunt Isabel chaperoned me, though neither of us had ever heard of the office then, through the entertaining of my first beau. Whatever path I took to reach their house I always



went home through the grove toward Grandfather's and stopped to walk on the log or sit a while on the stump of the big white oak tree that Grandfather was cutting when Aunt Susie ran to tell him that Mary had a little girl baby—myself. I might not be able to find the place now but it was a spot of much interest to me for over thirty years.

Aunt Jane's home was always that of the model housekeeper, whether in the first two little rooms that used to seem so far away, or her present commodious residence. I used to plan to keep my house and to make just such cream pies as she did; but somehow the mantle of the Atkinson housewife for immaculate housekeeping and elaborate cooking did not fall upon my shoulders. Don't be scared though, if any of you fare through Kansas and want to call, there's always a good bed, no danger of hunger and welcome for all who love us.

I have been advised that Aunt Susie may be with me by the time or not long after the reunion. I hope it may be so. We will drink a cup of tea to the Auld Lang Syne and talk of of you all, all day long. Her age and my own are not so different but that when she set up in her own home I was able to take an active and sympathetic interest in it—as maybe Mills can testify if he be present and remembers "Glory's (that was his name for me) care of him once when his mother was sick. He was not three years old and his only relief for overcharged feeling was driving nails into a pumpkin.

"And David longed——and three brake through the host of the Philistines and drew water from the well which is in Bethlehem at the gate, and brought it to David; but David would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord." No after all, we cannot drink from memory. These recollections that "smell sweet and blossom in the dust" are very precious but they are but shadows of the past, while the substance of the present demands all the power that is in us to mold it into pleasing and profitable form.

They did their part—those gone before—and have no doubt received the "Well done, good and faithful servant." Let us profit by their example, justify their love for us and honor our father and mother in the things we do which they and our heavenly Father shall approve. May He give you all to



drink from that fountain which one, having tasted, shall never thirst again. May you be blessed in basket and store; in present and future; in body and spirit; in the "all things which work together for good to them that love God," and may this blessing continue "until the time of refreshing cometh from the Lord."

Most lovingly and sincerely,

LEORA W. THOMAS.

**Note:** The above was a greeting to the Atkinson family reunion of 1912 by Leora Whinery Thomas, now deceased.





### **Short History of William Atkinson**

Thought to be a brother of John, our ancestor

John and Susannah Atkinson, with their 3 children, William, Margaret and John, also Christopher and Margaret Atkinson, with their three children, embarked on the ship *Britannia*, in May 1699, from Liverpool, England, bound for Philadelphia. John, Susannah and Christopher died and were buried at sea.

Margaret with her 3 children, and the 3 children of John and Susannah arrived in Philadelphia. They bore with them, household goods, a certificate to Friends (Quakers) in America, also patents from William Penn for 1,500 acres of land, 1,000 Christopher's and 500 John's.

John and Christopher were sons of William Atkinson, of Lancaster, England, a Quaker friend of George Fox and William Penn. My ancestor was William, son of John and Susannah Atkinson. His daughter, Susannah, married Thomas Hughes. Their son, Atkinson Hughes, married Jane Evans, and had a son Atkinson Hughes 2nd. He married Martha Parry, daughter of Isaac and Grace Courly Parry and had a daughter, Grace Courly Hughes, who married Emmos K. Gourley, and had a son Howard Gourley, who married Jessie Kent, and were my father and mother.

Wilmer Atkinson, of Philadelphia, was from John (brother of my ancestor William) his son Thomas; his son Thomas; his son Jonathan; and his son Thomas, his father.

All seem to have had large families, so the descendants of William, of Lancaster, must be many indeed.—Alice Kent Gourley.













